

I think the Norweb Farouk Woodin Specimen is:

Copper-Nickel \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Copper Issue \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Signature (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

After looking at these coins, if you care to express your opinion (signed or unsigned) on the coin's metallic content, drop a slip in the box.



- 80% COPPER

- 16% TIN

- 4% SILVER

!!!

# WHAT IS ITS METALIC CONTENT

The Norweb (#134) Farouk Woodin Specimen

W192      J155      Allegedly:

"Unique 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half  
Cent"      weight - 83.4 gr.

← REGULAR STRIKES ↑ PROOF ↗

1856 Regular issue half cents  
weight - 84 gr.

1856 Copper-nickel half cents  
weight - 70-72 gr.

← CIRCULATION STRIKES ↑  
1854 Regular issue half cents  
weight - 84 gr.

← PROOFS →

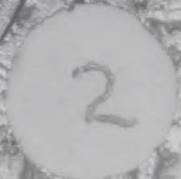
COINS WILL BE TURNED OVER TO SHOW

REVERSES AROUND 1 p.m. FRIDAY

The Judd 155  
comment of  
NONE

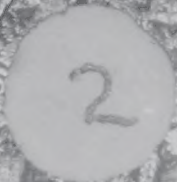
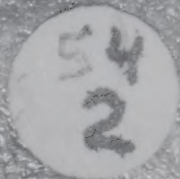
means it was not  
auctioned in the sales  
they reviewed. It  
doesn't mean it doesn't  
exist

Eric





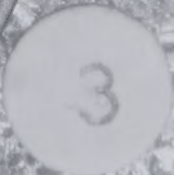
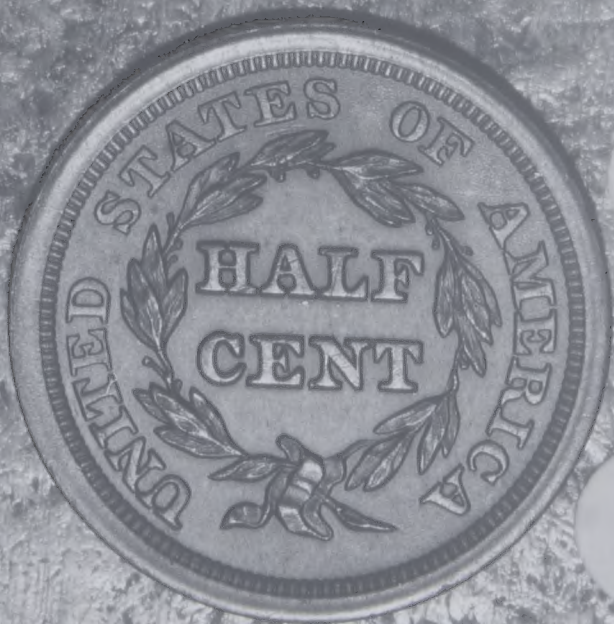


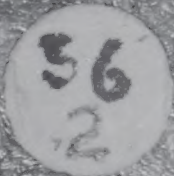






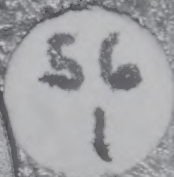
















56  
2

3







36  
2

5

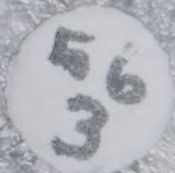




56  
3

1



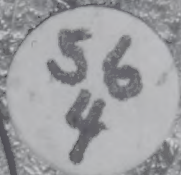




56  
4

2





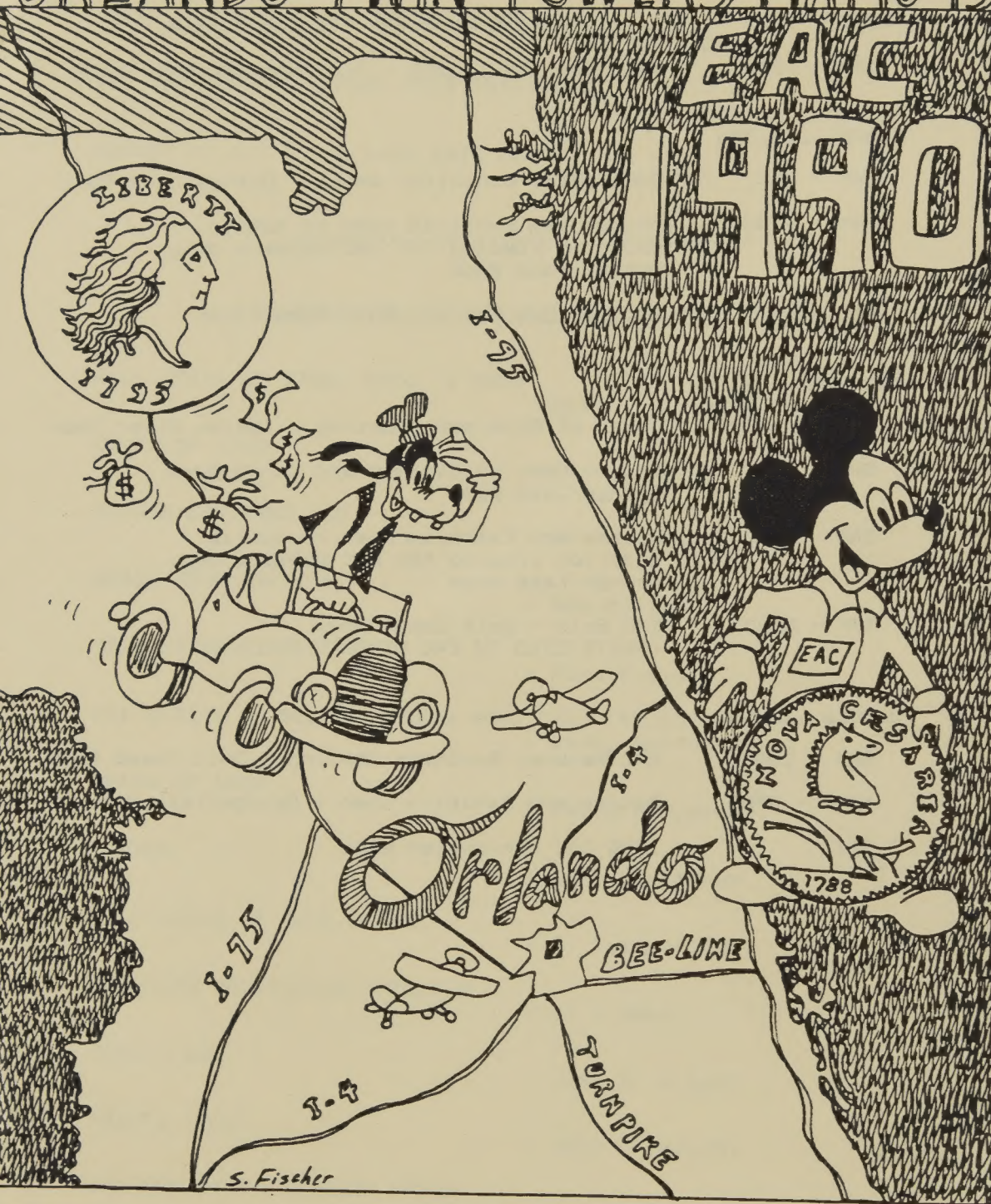




56  
4

4

# EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS CONVENTION ORLANDO TWIN TOWERS MAY 10-13





## 1990 EAC CONVENTION SCHEDULE

### Thursday, May 10

1:00	Security Room opens
5PM - 7PM	Hospitality Suite open - Osceola Room
7PM - 11PM	Half Cent Happening - St Johns/Sarasota Room

### Friday, 11 May

8AM - 9AM	Dealer and Exhibitor setup - Orange/Lake Room
9AM - 5:30PM	Bourse and Exhibits open to public Sale lot viewing for EAC members only Orange/Lake Room
8PM - 10PM	Educational Forum - Gold Coast Room

### Saturday, 12 May

7:30AM - 9AM	Board of Governors Meeting - Indian River Room
8AM - 9AM	Bourse open to Dealers and Exhibitors Orange/Lake Room
9AM - 5:30PM	Bourse and Exhibits open to public Sale lot viewing for EAC members only Orange/Lake Room
7PM - 12PM	EAC Sale - Gold Coast Room (RESTRICTED TO EAC MEMBERS ONLY)

### Sunday, 13 May

9AM - 10AM	EAC General Business Meeting - Gold Coast Room
10AM - 2PM	Bourse and Exhibits open - Orange/Lake Room
2PM	1990 EAC Convention ends

## 1990 EAC EDUCATIONAL FORUM SPEAKERS

The Forum begins at 8:00 in the Gold Coast Room

### AMERICA'S FIRST FEDERAL COINAGE

- Bill Jones

### LARGE CENTS 101: AN INTRODUCTION

- Denis Loring

### THE 1854 COPPER-NICKEL HALF CENT: DOES IT EXIST?

- R. Tettenhorst

### SURVEY OF R-7 & R-8 LATE DATE CENTS

- Bob Grellman

\*\*\*\*\*

## EXHIBITS IN ORANGE/LAKE ROOMS (BOURSE AREA)

### HALF CENTS OF 1795, 1802, & 1826

- Half Cent Happening

### CENTS OF 1847

- Terry Hess

### SILVER CENTERED CENT

- Bill Jones

### SMITH COUNTERFEITS

- Bob Miller

### MASS CENTS OF 1787

- Mike Packard

### DIE STATES OF SELECTED 1804 HALF CENT VARIETIES

- Lanny Reinhardt

### CENTS OF 1802

- Harry Salyards

### FUGIOS

- Tony Terranova

### HALF CENTS OF 1854 & 1856

- R. Tettenhorst

### ASSORTED CALIFORNIA CHERRIES

- Bill Weber

### THAT'S ODD

- John D. Wright

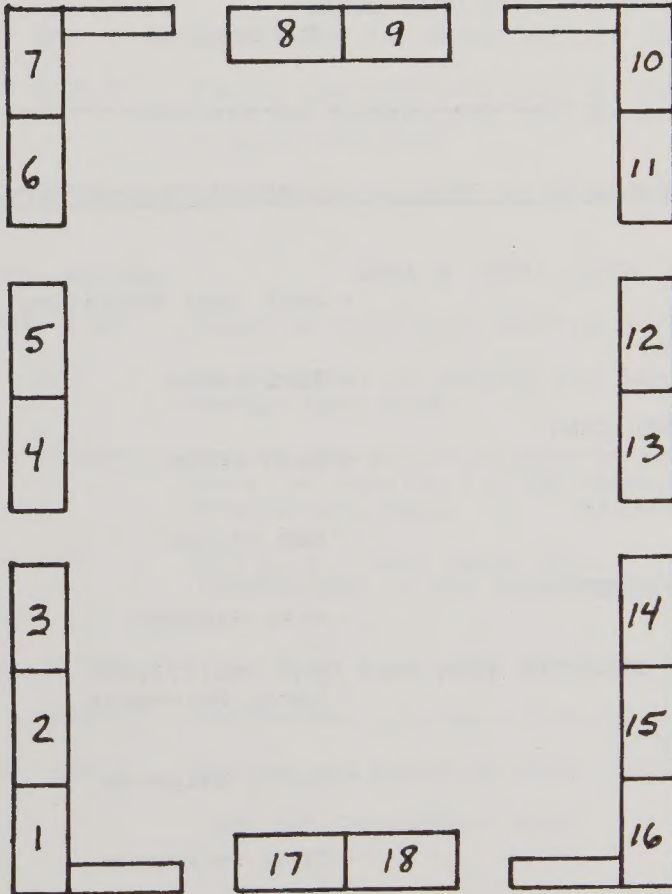
### MIDDLE DATES

- John D. Wright

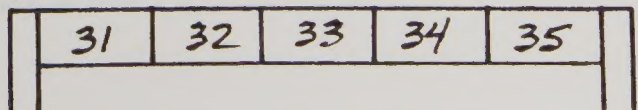
### CHERRYPICKING SHELDON CENTS

- Jim Young

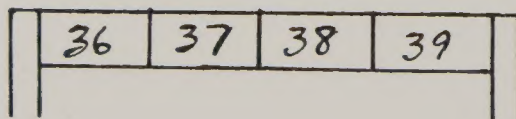
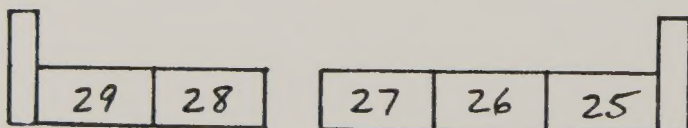
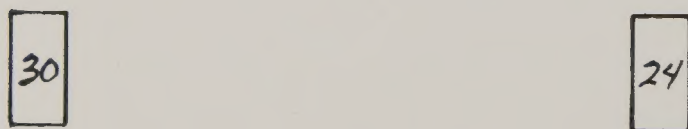
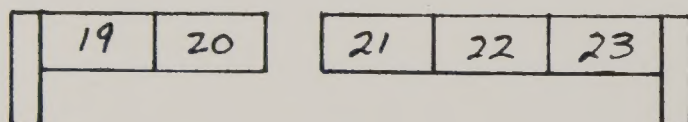
EAC SALE LOT VIEWING



EXHIBITS



DEALER NAME	TABLE #	DEALER NAME	TABLE #
Ronnie Adam	3	Chris McCawley	19 & 20
Jack Beymer	7	Jim McGuigan	34
Doug Bird	28	Bob Miller	17
Pete Boisvert	11	Darwin Palmer	22
Tony Carlotto	2	John Peters	39
Gerry Charron	39	Phil Ralls	29
Bert Cohen	14	Tom Reynolds	32
Roger S. Cohen, Jr.	37	Wiley Reitzel	12
Paul Delfeld	26	Tom Rinaldo	24
George Ewing	14	Mike Ringo	1
Steve Fischer	34	Jack Robinson	30
J. R. Frankenfield	9	Bob Shalowitz	10
Henry Garrett	25	Bob Schick	23
Carvin Goodridge	5	Hank Spangenberger	36
Bob Grellman	8	Tony Terranova	38
Terry Hess	31	Phyllis Thompson	36
Dan Holmes	18	Bill Tivol	21
Joe Kane	31	Don Valenziano	17
Ed Kucia	4	Don Weathers	13
Bob & Ellen LaForme	15	Lewis Weismann	35
Denis Loring	33	March Wells	6
M. J. B.	27	Jim Young	11
Bob Matthews	16		





1990 EAC HOSPITALITY ROOM HOSTS

Thanks to the following for their generous contributions for  
hospitality room refreshments:

Mike Barton  
Dan Bierman  
James Brotherton  
Robbie Brown  
William Carmack  
Lawrence Cobb  
David Cornell  
Rick DeSanctis  
Mike Dudley  
Jan Edeburn  
Michael Eisenberg  
J. R. Frankenfield  
John Fuller  
Ron Gjertson  
Gordon Gleitz  
Jim Harrell  
R. J. Hubartt  
John Jendrek  
Bob Kauzlarich  
Jack Kessing  
Bob Lewis  
Mark Lighterman

Mac MacDonald  
Jim Mauldin  
Stanley Miller  
Larry Moor  
Tom Morley  
Barry Murphy  
Dan Oglesby  
Mike Packard  
Darwin Palmer  
Barry Parker  
Bob Parson  
John Peters  
Wiley Reitzel  
Stephen Richter  
Scott Shapiro  
Rad Stearns  
Ed Sunderland  
Sam Thurman  
Bruce Tucker  
Don Valenziano  
F. Eugene Williams  
Charles Windler





R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

January 29, 1990

Mr. Mike Packard  
4905 Village Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Mike:

Will you please reserve me one exhibit case at the 1990 EAC convention? This is to show 1854 and 1856 half-cents in connection with my talk at the Educational Forum.

Actually, I will only be displaying six to ten coins plus a small amount of written material. This does not really require a full case. If space becomes limited and someone has a small exhibit and wants to share a case, I will be glad to cooperate.

Sincerely,

R. Tettenhorst

m

1990 EAC CONVENTION - ORLANDO, FLORIDA

10-13 MAY 1990

ORLANDO TWIN TOWERS

Bob Grellman

The 1990 EAC Convention is rapidly approaching, and it's time to start making your plans to attend. Enclosed with this issue of Penny-Wise is a reservation form for the Orlando Twin Towers, our convention hotel. I suggest you get your reservation early since we were only able to book 75 rooms at the very special rate of \$60. This rate applies to 1-4 persons occupying the same room (the reservation form indicates two persons with two double beds, but our contract guarantees this rate with up to four persons providing a rollaway is not required). I've also included a map that shows how to get to the hotel and its relation to some of the more popular attractions in the area. One major attraction not shown on this map is the new Universal Studios Tour which is located directly across the street from our hotel. This attraction is scheduled to open in May 1990, and the demand for rooms at our hotel will probably be very high during that month. Reserve your room now!

We have also negotiated a special convention rate with Thrifty Car Rental Company. This rate, valid 3-20 May, will allow you to obtain a compact car with unlimited mileage for \$22.95 a day or \$89.95 a week. A midsize will run \$25.95/\$109.95. Similar savings are available for larger vehicles. I'll provide complete details in the March issue, but if you want to get a jump on a reservation, you can call (407) 381-2393. You must tell them you are with the EAC Convention to get these special rates.

I'll include more details about our convention in the March issue of Penny-Wise. Just get your hotel reservation now and rest assured you will have a great time in Orlando.

\*\*\* EXHIBITS \*\*\*

This is the second call for exhibits for the 1990 EAC Convention. We have a few commitments, but plenty of cases are still available. We would like exhibits on all phases of Early American Copper--state coinage, other colonials, half cents, Sheldon large cents, Middle Date large cents, late date large cents, hard times tokens, and errors and curiosities of all kinds. If you are proud of your collection, share it with us.

If you wish to exhibit, please tell me what you plan to exhibit and how many cases you will need. Send this information to: Mike Packard, 4905 Village Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Don't delay. Cases are reserved on a first come, first served basis.

\*\*\* EDUCATIONAL FORUM \*\*\*

There are still two speaker openings for the Forum in Orlando. Already on tap are Denis Loring ("Large Cents 101") and R. Tettenhorst ("The 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half Cent--Does It Exist?") Anyone else interested in speaking is urged to contact the Editor, Harry E. Salyards, 606 North Minnesota, Hastings, NE 68901.



1990

4905 Village Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
(703) 273-1304

February 3, 1990

R. Tettenhorst  
P.O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Tet,

I just received your letter requesting one case to display your 1854 and 1856 half cents. There are plenty of cases and I have reserved one in your name.

I am looking forward to a wonderful convention. Bill, Rick, and I have, I think, settled on this year's half cent happening varieties--1795 C-6 a and b (to finish that year), 1802 C 1 and 2, and 1826 C 1 and 2. A nice diversity of common to rare, plain vanilla to interesting die states, undertypes, etc. It should be an interesting happening. We are toying with the idea of reserving an exhibit case to display some of the more interesting pieces from the happening, owners willing. This will allow those who miss the happening to see what they are missing, and those who attend to avail themselves of an instant replay. Do you have any thoughts on the idea?

I am afraid I do not have any new or interesting half cents to report. I've been concentrating on the Massachusetts coppers the past couple of years and have been neglecting half cents. I have been following auction prices realized and it is obvious that the competition for nice pieces is very keen.

I trust you are aware that Roger has been having some health problems recently. He spent all of January and part of December in the hospital, and seems to be on the mend at the moment. If you haven't been in contact with him recently, I'm sure he would like to hear from you.

I'll see you in Orlando.

*Mike*

PRELIM

BLANK

A	Obverse	1856	C-N
B	Rev	"	"
C	Obverse	<del>18</del> "	Reg issue
D	Rev	"	"
E	Obverse	"	C-N (2 <sup>nd</sup> Specimen)
F	Rev	"	"
G	Obv.	1854	Reg issue
H	Rev	"	"
I	Obv.	"	J 155
J	Rev	"	"

F2 Blank

K	Building slides
L	
M	
N	

FINAL

BLANK



# NOVACHROME, INC.

Mailing Address: 35 Plant Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63119

Lab Address: 710 N. Tucker # 303  
St. Louis, MO 63101

INVOICE NO.: 003586

INVOICE DATE: 05/31/90

PAGE: 1

SOLD  
TO

Edison Brothers  
501 N. Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
Attn: Tim Thornton

SHIP  
TO

Edison Brothers  
501 N. Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63101  
Attn: Tim Thornton

SHIP VIA .....  
SHIP DATE ... : 05/31/90  
DUE DATE ... : 06/30/90  
TERMS ..... : NET 30

CUST. ID ..... : Edison  
P.O. NUMBER .... : Nickel/Copper  
P.O. DATE ..... : 05/31/90  
OUR ORDER NO. . : MY115  
SALESPERSON ... :

PRODUCT I.D.	DESCRIPTION	ORDERED	SHIPPED	U/M	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT	TX
	Computer Tab Slide	1.00	1.00	EA	15.00	15.00	*
	Edits	3.00	3.00	EA	10.00	30.00	*

NET AMOUNT: 45.00  
TAX: 2.67 \*  
TOTAL DUE: 47.67

pd 6-6-90  
ck. 2061



R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

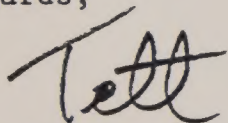
February 5, 1990

Mr. Harry Salyards  
606 North Minnesota Avenue  
Hastings, NE 68901-5297

Dear Harry:

Yes, I am still planning to "tell all" at the Forum. I have written Mike Packard to reserve a display case. Frank Wilkinson has already taken the photographs for the Penny-Wise article and the Forum. The first draft of the article for the March issue of Penny-Wise is in the typewriter now.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tet' with a stylized flourish at the end.

R. Tettenhorst



Dear Tett -

1990 EAC CONVENTION - ORLANDO, FLORIDA

10-13 MAY 1990

ORLANDO TWIN TOWERS

Bob Grellman

*I assume you're still "up" for this - please let me know - Harry*

The 1990 EAC Convention is rapidly approaching, and it's time to start making your plans to attend. Enclosed with this issue of Penny-Wise is a reservation form for the Orlando Twin Towers, our convention hotel. I suggest you get your reservation early since we were only able to book 75 rooms at the very special rate of \$60. This rate applies to 1-4 persons occupying the same room (the reservation form indicates two persons with two double beds, but our contract guarantees this rate with up to four persons providing a rollaway is not required). I've also included a map that shows how to get to the hotel and its relation to some of the more popular attractions in the area. One major attraction not shown on this map is the new Universal Studios Tour which is located directly across the street from our hotel. This attraction is scheduled to open in May 1990, and the demand for rooms at our hotel will probably be very high during that month. Reserve your room now!

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# American Numismatic Association

WORLD'S LARGEST ORGANIZATION FOR COLLECTORS OF COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS & PAPER MONEY

CERTIFICATION SERVICE

Written in our 97th Year

December 21, 1987

Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO. 63105

Dear Eric:

The X-Ray spectroscopy was performed on your coins yesterday, the results are as follows:

1854 1/2 Cent (suspected copper-nickel composition).

1. Area tested-Obverse above and to the right of the date:

A. Elements tested	Percentage of Element in Sample
1. Copper	79.96%
2. Tin	16.11%
3. Silver	3.88%
4. Nickel	.04% Probably a trace element

2. Area tested-Miss Liberty's Profile:

A. Results nearly the same as above (under 1% deviation).

1854 1/2 Cent (Regular Issue, Copper)

1. Area tested-Obverse above and to the right of the date:

A. Elements tested	Percentage of Element in Sample
1. Copper	98.79%
2. Tin	.37%
3. Silver	.84%
4. Nickel	0%

2. Area tested-Miss Liberty's Profile:

A. Results nearly the same as above (under 1% deviation).

1856 1/2 Cent-Copper Nickel

1. Area tested-Obverse above and to the right of the date:

A. Elements tested	Percentage of Element in Sample
1. Copper	91.10%
2. Tin	0%
3. Silver	0%
4. Nickel	8.90%



Eric P. Newman  
December 22, 1987  
Page-2-Continued

2. Area tested-Miss Liberty's Profile:

A. Results nearly the same as above (under 1% deviation).

1856 1/2 Cent-Copper

1. Area tested-Obverse above and to the right of the date:

A. Elements tested	Percentage of Element in Sample
1. Copper	99%
2. Tin	Trace
3. Silver	Trace
4. Nickel	Trace

2. Area tested-Obverse-Miss Liberty's Profile:

B. Results nearly the same as above (under 1% deviation).

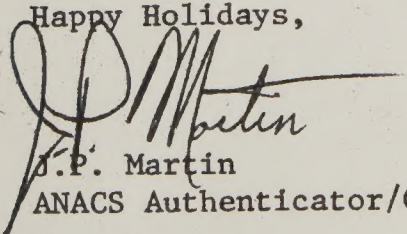
I am at a loss to explain the composition of the alloyed 1854 Half Cent, as I have seen no previous text mentioning this particular alloy. A suggestion that more tin was added "in an attempt to prevent the bronze pieces from tarnishing" can be found in a letter of James C. Booth, the melter and assayer of the mint.

This portion of the letter is paraphrased in Judd's Pattern Book under the year 1854.

The accounting Department will bill you for the surface analysis.

I hope that I have been of useful service to you.

Happy Holidays,

  
J.P. Martin

ANACS Authenticator/Grader

JPM:lm

## Outline

1. Intro — discovers a new variety
2. History
3. Space Sale
4. Search
5. Discovery
6. Philosophy — more real now than ever.



# The Undiscovery of a Variety

①

Jason II - The Search for the Copper-Nickel <sup>FLEECE</sup>

Haven't you always wanted to discover a new variety? I have. And ~~this~~

probably many other collectors share with me that secret fantasy of <sup>discovery</sup> ~~discovery~~ being the first to realize the existence of a previously unknown variety.

Those EAC-ers who have ~~made~~ this contribution ~~been the~~ for discovered new varieties have always been sort of heroes to me, ~~and still~~ an extra-elite within the elite.

Alas, it has not happened, and the odds clearly are that it never will.

However, it is my pleasure to share with you a rather pale substitute for



(2)

the existence of a previously unknown variety. This is the non-existence of a previously known variety.

The 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent was first "discovered" in 1913 by William Woodin. It was listed in Adams-Woodin as "~~Unique~~" No. 192, and called unique.

The 1856 copper-nickel pattern half-cent has ~~long~~ been known since its striking. ~~The date and~~ Its existence and purpose

are well documented by contemporary mint correspondence. In 1856,

the mint was testing the alloy of copper-nickel which was subsequently approved and used



(3)

for the flying eagle small cents.

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1856 Mint Director J.R. Snowden wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury, James

Guthrie, that "... recent experiments have

→ shown an alloy of 88% copper and 12% nickel

to be far superior to bronze. I have accordingly

caused some specimens to be struck, fifty

pieces of which I send you .... To prevent

expense and delay we have used the

half cent dies ...." Thank you, Mr. Snowden!

(A)

The 1856 <sup>copper-nickel patterns</sup> ~~pieces~~ generally differ from

the regular copper half cents in three ways.

The color is most obvious. Although <sup>now</sup> ~~toned~~

in a normal <sup>range of tones,</sup> ~~the~~ the copper-nickel

patterns are almost always lighter in color,



(4)

~~more yellow with~~ and could be described as more yellow or golden or brassy than the red to brown regular copper half cents.

Secondly, the copper-nickel coins weigh less. They range from 69 to 72 grains, compared with the 84 grains of the regular copper issue. Thirdly, the patterns are never fully struck up.

~~Some leaves always have~~ There are always some leaves with flat areas, hair is often less sharp in spots than copper ~~half cents~~ half cents, and denticles are always quite <sup>and</sup> ~~missing~~ <sup>places.</sup> in most ~~parts of~~ ~~the entire outer~~



(A) These 1856 patterns have been designated numbers 216 + 217 in Adams Woodin (to differentiate between two slightly different proportions of metallic content) number 177 in Judd, number 2 in Gilbert, numbers 2b and 2c in Breen, mentioned as a sub-variety of E-129 in Empire, and described among "Other Half Cents" in Cohen.

The 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent has a less well documented history.

It is first mentioned in Adams-Woodin in 1913 as their no. 192, and called "unique"

There is <sup>explicit</sup> no reference to 1854 dated specimens in any mint records.



Then, in 1954, lot 1155 of the Anderson Dupont sale was described as

"1854 ... struck in Copper-Nickel. Listed as ... weighs 84 grains ... with a tiny edge nick at E of ~~United~~ UNITED which shows the copper-nickel metal plainly underneath the tarnish ... AW192 and called unique. ... Probably only this

and the Farouk piece (~~the Adams-Woodin discovery coin~~) are known ... " The Farouk piece referred to was the Adams-Woodin discovery coin, although that fact is somewhat unclear in the muddled ~~old~~ catalogue comments.

In addition to its chemical toning, AW 192 <sup>over time</sup> acquired the intellectual patina of Judd's designation as #155 "Two known", and mention in Empire and Cohen's <sup>1st edition</sup> in the same manner as the 1856 pattern. Gilbert, writing in 1916, three years after the appearance of Adams-



Woodin, fails to mention the 1854. However, there is no indication that this was due to doubt rather than mere oversight. Breen had listed both coins in his Encyclopedia of Proof Coins in 1977. However, in his ~~later~~ later Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents, he ~~was listing~~ after the first doubts had ~~been~~ ~~communicated~~ to him, described ~~the current~~ the uncertainty and gave the knowledge to the degree it then existed. He avoided, with appropriate caution, the assigning of a variety number to the 1854. Cohen's second edition also updated the reference to the 1854 pattern.

But what was this new knowledge, and how did it raise doubts about the existence of the variety?

On March <sup>15</sup> 1975, Stack's held an outstanding sale, which offered the Spence



collection of colonial coins and a spectacular collection of half cents.

Many of the letters had been in the Dupont sale, and those envelopes accompanied the current ones with the coins when sent to the ~~current~~ new owners after the 1975 sale. ~~Lot 880~~

Lot 880 of the 1975 sale was <sup>described as</sup> the Dupont sale's lot 1155. The picture, the envelope, the distinctive diagonal <sup>streaks of</sup> toning, and most of all the edge nick ~~at~~ <sup>and its color</sup> of UNITED ~~States~~ confirmed the identity beyond a doubt.

The protagonist of our present story purchased lot 880, along with a few



others. But something about it bothered him. The color seemed right. And particularly so inside the edge nick.

Why did it bother him? Suddenly the doubts came into focus. ~~It~~ It was too well struck. In spite of active searching, he had never found a fully struck 1856 copper-nickel pattern. Why then was this 1854 fully struck, even in the denticles? Doubt now led to further contemplation.

The weight was wrong. Why ~~was~~ <sup>did</sup> the 1854 weigh the same 84 grains as the regular copper coins, when the 1856 pattern all weighed ~~about~~ around 12 to 15 grains less?

Of course, the extra weight could <sup>actually</sup> explain



the better strike, if the dies somehow did not come together with sufficient pressure on the lighter and thinner 1856 planchets. But that explanation didn't really satisfy. What to do?

A specific gravity test seemed reasonable, but in practice was of ~~no~~ no help. Copper has a specific gravity of , and nickel <sup>is</sup> almost identical at .

The difference is too slight to help in determining the existence of a 12% addition of nickel.

So now he turned to Eric Newman for help, and, as usual, received it. Lot 880, along with



a copper-nickel pattern half cent of 1856  
and regular copper half cents of 1854  
and 1856, was sent to the Washington  
University ~~lab~~ laboratories for examination  
by

Back came the results, which  
were ~~the~~ most definite. The nickel, which  
was clearly evident in the 1856 pattern,  
was clearly absent from lot 880. It ~~was~~  
had the same metallic content as the  
regular 1854. It was a regular 1854.  
The coin was returned to Stacks, which  
made a prompt and full refund. So  
much for the second known specimen.



But what of the first, the discovery  
 was it truly copper-nickel, or was it also, like the Dupont  
~~sp~~ coin, merely a regular copper half cent with copper-nickel  
 specimen? <sup>colored</sup> <sup>toning?</sup> like a modern day Jason II,

our protagonist set out on a search for  
 the copper-nickel fleece. It was traced  
 to the Farouk sale. There it was part  
 of lot 1750, ~~p~~ combined with a copper pattern  
 for an 1855 #10 piece. The half cent  
 was described as "copper-nickel, perhaps  
 unique, AW 95 (sic)." The price for the  
 lot was £30 + 5%, or about \$90.

This was strangely low, considering that  
 later that year the Anderson Dupont  
 half cent alone brought \$350.

~~Further~~ The purchaser in the Farouk  
 sale was known to be "a Florida dealer named



Randall." However, Jason II's search for Mr. Randall turned up only the information that he and his wife had since died.

Interesting personal anecdotes ~~could be~~ were encountered, but none gave a clue as to his customers or the fate of the Woodin-Frank 1854 half cent.

Jason II sought information from all known or reputed authorities, both inside and outside of EAC. All leads led to a dead end. He hoped the coin would someday reappear.

But a worry gnawed at him. Suppose it were just a regular copper coin. Suppose



- 6 1895 no mention of 1854  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ pattern
- 1 1892 ..
- ✓ 8 1950 Some mention ... <sup>at time of flying eagle</sup> left-over planchet  
from 1856 striking - however, uncertain
- 4 1940 listed - no comment - "copper-nickel"
- ✓ 3 1959 Yes - discussion indicates why tin,  
but lists  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ as C-N
- ✓ 2 1913 (REPRINT 1940) <sup>#192</sup> lists as "unique" ... C-N ... Woodin coll. "
- 5 1950 listed "A-W 192" no comments
- 7 1953 Neither 1854 or 1856 included in this  
fixed-price offering

R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

Feb 26, 1990

Harry,

Here is the promised article  
on the 1854 copper-nickel pattern  
half cent. Having it in the  
March issue of Penny-Wise should  
tie in nicely with the Orlando  
convention. Hope you like it!

Tell



## The 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half Cent - Does It Exist?

### Introduction

There are three purposes to this article. The first is to describe the pleasure of an experience in numismatic research that extended over approximately fifteen years. The second purpose is to demonstrate that almost any collector with enough patience and enthusiasm can engage in numismatic research, even though he may not be one of EAC's more experienced and scholarly members. The third purpose is to disclose the answer to the question as to whether the 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent exists.

The presentation will be in three parts, of which this article is the first. It will tell how the question arose and describe the search for the answer. The second part will be a visual and oral presentation at the Forum during EAC's 1990 Convention in Orlando, where the coin will be displayed and the question will be answered. The third part will be a follow-up article on the subject which will be submitted to Penny-Wise.

### A Brief Review of the History of the 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half Cent

The first published listing of the 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent was in the Adams and Woodin book entitled United States Pattern, Trial, and Experimental Pieces, published in 1913. The coin was listed as Adams-Woodin number 192 and described as "unique." In 1954 a second specimen appeared for the first time in the Anderson-Dupont sale, lot 1155. The variety was listed in Judd's United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces (1959) and given the number 155. The information in Judd is merely a restatement of what appeared in Adams-Woodin, with the addition of the second specimen. Similar references were in Empire Coin Company's United States Half Cents (1962); in the first edition of Roger Cohen's American Half Cents (1971); and in Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins (1977). By the time of the publication of Cohen's second edition (1982) and Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents (1983), I had brought the question as to the existence of the coin to the attention of those authors. It is discussed on page 123 of Cohen and page 451 of Breen. However, the seventh edition of Judd, revised by Kosoff in 1982, still listed J155 as "two known."



## The Spence Sale and Its Consequences

The Dupont specimen reappeared as lot 880 in the Spence sale on March 15, 1975, exactly fifteen years before the date of this issue of Penny-Wise. I examined it carefully before the sale and then bought it for \$1,700, a price approximately four times that of a regular late date copper proof, and about the same price as the 1856 copper-nickel pattern in the same sale. The price was less than I had expected, because twenty years earlier, in the Anderson-Dupont sale, the same coin had sold for \$350, which was about eight times the current price for a late date proof, and four times the price of an 1856 copper-nickel pattern.

The coin seemed perfectly satisfactory to me. It had a golden color well within the normal range of naturally toned examples of the 1856 copper-nickel pattern half cent. In fact, there was a slight edge nick which almost served the function of a chop mark. Inside the nick the coin was also an appropriate brassy color. Moreover, the coin was accompanied by the envelope from the Dupont sale.

When I got the coin home, however, something vaguely troubled me about it. There was something not quite as good as it ought to be, but I couldn't figure out what. Eventually, it dawned on me that it was too good. The coin was simply too well struck up. It was fully struck on both the obverse and reverse, particularly the denticles.

To understand the significance of this, one has to realize that the 1856 copper-nickel half cent pattern never comes fully struck up. I had unsuccessfully searched for years for a fully struck example. Each one I had seen or heard of had significant areas of flatness in the hair and on several leaves, plus a consistently mushy area lacking details in many of the denticles. The illustrations on pages 456 and 457 of Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents, and those below in this article, clearly show that. The explanation always given was that the nickel was a harder metal than copper, and that the coinage presses in the Mint used for striking copper coins lacked sufficient pressure to fully bring up the details onto the faces of the tougher copper-nickel planchet. Yet, here was this 1854 specimen struck two years earlier, supposedly from the same material, without a trace of flatness. Why? Perhaps since only two of the 1854 patterns



were made, a special setting was made in the coinage press to make sure that the details were sharp. But, at the same time, there was now uncertainty as to whether these pieces were made of copper-nickel.

Next, I considered the weights of the respective coins, and the doubts multiplied. The normal copper half cents of the 1850s weighed about 84 grains. I had not seen specimens that varied significantly from this standard. The 1856 copper-nickel patterns weighed consistently in the range of 70 to 72 grains. This 1854 pattern was listed in the Anderson-Dupont catalogue as weighing 84 grains, and the comment was repeated in the Spence sale catalogue. Quickly, I popped my new acquisition on the scale, and the result was an unambiguous 84.1 grains. Uh, oh, trouble in River City!

Not knowing precisely what to do next, I consulted a friend and neighbor, the noted numismatist, Eric P. Newman. He had no explanation for the differences in strike and weight between this 1854 and the 1856 patterns, if they were made of the same metal. He offered to send the coin to a friend in the chemistry laboratory at Washington University in St. Louis for an X-ray spectroscope, which he said would determine clearly what the metallic content was without damaging the coin.

We sent the coin off, together with a regular copper 1854 proof, a copper 1856 proof, and a copper-nickel 1856 pattern.

When the results came back, they were clear. The Dupont-Spence coin, except for traces of impurities, was all copper, just as were the 1854 and 1856 regular metal proofs. The 1856 copper-nickel pattern showed a clear presence of around 10 percent nickel.

Naturally, my feelings were mixed. I had made an interesting discovery, but at the price of realizing that I did not have the rare coin I thought I had purchased. I returned the coin to Stack's with a copy of the chemical analysis. I received back a prompt refund along with a gracious letter of regret.

Next, of course, my thoughts turned to the other specimen. The Adams-Woodin piece now had the adjective "unique" restored to it. But, how sure was



I that it was made of copper-nickel? Perhaps it was also an unusually toned brassy looking regular copper proof. So began The Search.

#### The Hunt for Brown October

First, I looked to see if I could find a picture of the Adams-Woodin coin, which might show whether it was fully struck or not. No luck. Nor could I find any reference to its weight. Then I asked people who might have seen the coin if they remembered whether or not it was fully struck. Actually, no one recalled ever having seen the coin, since it had disappeared from view many years earlier.

Eventually, I learned that the Adams-Woodin specimen had reappeared in the Farouk sale as part of lot 1750, combined with an 1855 copper \$10 U.S. pattern. The two-coin lot sold for thirty Egyptian Pounds, or around \$90.

The next bit of information that I received was that it had been bought at the Farouk sale by a Florida dealer named Randall. My search took on a new direction.

Some interesting information and lively anecdotes about Mr. Randall surfaced. Unfortunately, included in the information was that he was deceased, as was Mrs. Randall. No one had the slightest clue as to who might have been a customer of his for a coin such as an 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent.

A gnawing worry invaded my thoughts. Suppose that the coin was, as I believed possible, only a regular copper 1854 half cent. But, suppose further that it had become somehow separated from its pedigree, so that there was nothing to link this ordinary half cent with its distinguished history. We would then be forever deprived of the opportunity to establish conclusively that the 1854 copper-nickel pattern did not exist. It would retain forever the theoretical possibility of reemergence and thus sink into that dismal abyss of unresolved and unresolvable questions. (Urgent



request -- All of you who own important or pedigreed coins, please keep the pedigrees with the coins for the benefit of future investigators.)

Years passed. More years. Every so often I would meet someone I thought might possibly know the location of the coin. But when I asked, no one had even a hunch.

#### Eureka! The Norweb Sale

Suddenly, one day in early 1987 the phone rang. It was Frank Wilkinson. "You know the half cents in the Norweb collection are going to be sold by Bowers and Merena in a few months, don't you?" he asked. "Yes," I replied, "I am really looking forward to it." "There is a coin in there that I think you have been looking for," said Frank mischievously. When he told me it was the Farouk specimen of the 1854 copper-nickel pattern, I literally jumped out of my chair. Frank further told me that Del Bland had seen the coin and considered it to be a regular 1854 copper half cent.

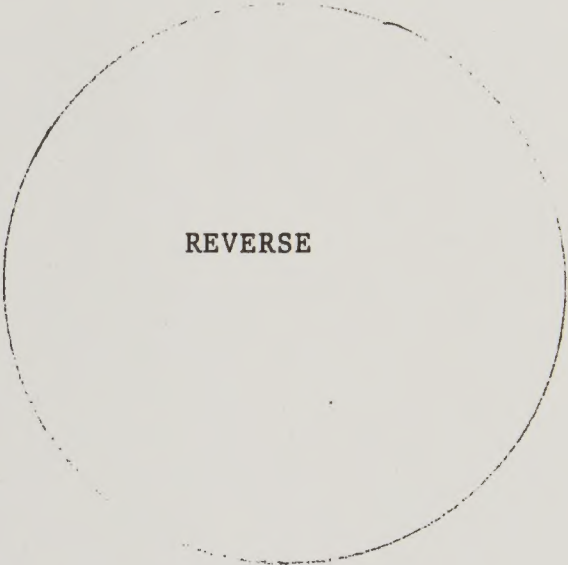
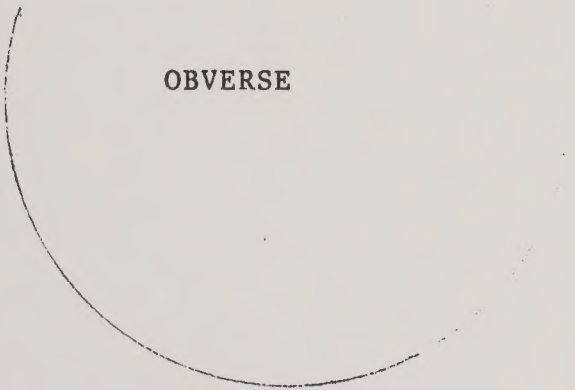
As soon as the coins were available for inspection, I rushed to see them. There were, of course, many fabulous half cents. However, the star for me was lot 134, something that I believed to be common - namely an ordinary copper 1854 half cent. Almost from across the room I could see that it was fully struck up. The color was within the normal range of natural toning, and the weight was given as 83.4 grains, approximately the standard of the regular issue copper half cents.

Eureka! Eureka! The undiscovery of a variety! The description in the catalogue gave a fair recital of the doubts concerning the metallic content of the coin, repeating Breen's comments at length. However, no actual analysis had been made.

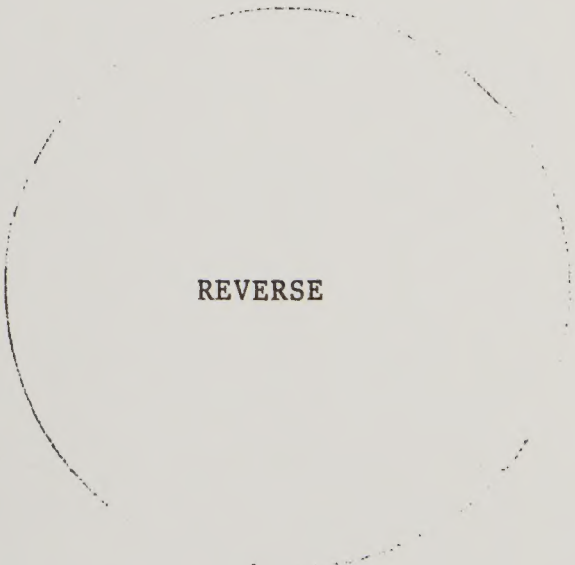
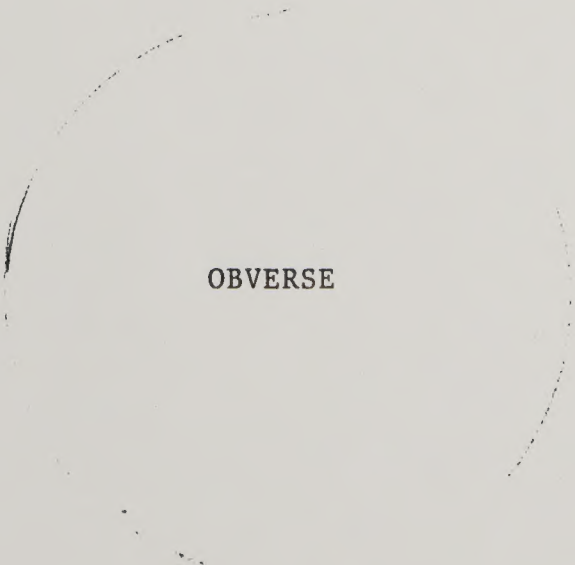
Apparently, most others, but not everyone, shared my view that the coin was merely a regular copper one. I bought it for \$1,980. I considered that its actual value, except for its historical interest, was in the range of \$100. The excess I regarded as a philanthropic contribution to further the study of numismatics. Again, with the assistance of Eric Newman, the

coin was sent off for non-destructive metal analysis, this time to the ANA certification service which secured the cooperation of the personnel at Colorado College.

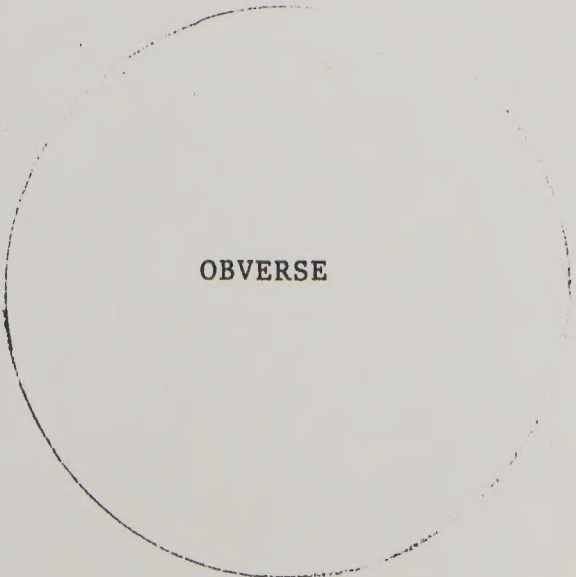
Shown below are pictures of the Woodin-Farouk-Norweb specimen, along with a regular uncirculated 1854 copper half cent and an 1856 copper-nickel pattern.



1854 regular issue



1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern ??? Woodin-Farouk-Norweb



1856 Copper-Nickel Pattern



At the EAC convention in Orlando, I plan to display these coins.

At the Forum I will present the results of the metallic analysis and make a few other comments about the pleasures of the hunt for numismatic information. Any EAC member who will not be in Orlando is invited to study the evidence presented above and send me a vote as to whether the coin is a regular copper half cent, copper-nickel pattern, or something else. If you believe it is not a copper-nickel pattern, I would welcome any speculation as to how an otherwise careful numismatist such as Mr. Woodin could have made such a mistake. Please write me at P.O. Box 14020, St. Louis, MO 63178. Those who are going to be in Orlando will have an opportunity to see the coin before the Forum and cast a vote after direct inspection.

Also, for those not going to Orlando, I plan to submit my remarks at the Forum for publication in Penny-Wise.

R. TETTENHORST  
February 26, 1990

February 2, 1990

1<sup>st</sup> draft

## The 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half Cent - Does It Exist?

### Introduction

There are three purposes to this article. The first is to describe the pleasure of an experience in numismatic research that extended over approximately fifteen years. The second purpose is to demonstrate that almost any collector with enough patience can engage in numismatic research. You do not have to be one of EAC's more experienced and scholarly members in order to make a contribution to knowledge in our field. The third purpose of this article will be to disclose the answer to the question as to whether the 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent exists.

*The presentation*  
~~This article~~ will be written in three parts, of which this is the first. *article* ~~This~~  
*It* ~~part~~ *artist* will tell how the question arose and describe the search for the answer.

The second part will be a visual and oral presentation at EAC's 1990 Convention in Orlando. The coins will be displayed. At the forum, the answer to the question will be revealed and discussed. The third *part* ~~portion~~ will be a written summary *in* ~~for~~ the next issue of Penny-Wise for ~~the benefit of~~ those not able to be at the Orlando Convention.



A Brief Review of the History of the 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half Cent

The first published listing of this coin was in the Adams <sup>and</sup> Woodin book entitled United States Pattern, Trial, and Experimental Pieces,  
U.S. Pattern Coins, published in 1913. The coin was listed as Adams-

Woodin number 192 ~~192~~ and described as "unique" ~~with only the following~~

Comment:

variety United States Pattern, Experimental, and Trial Pieces  
The ~~coin~~ was ~~later~~ listed in Judd's U.S. Pattern Coins (1959) and given the

number 155. The information there is merely a restatement of what  
with the addition of the second specimen. United States

appeared in Adams-Woodin. Similar references exist in Empire U.S. Half Cents (1962)

~~in~~ in the first edition of Roger Cohen's American Half Cents (1971) ~~and~~  
and in Gilbert. By the time of Cohen's second edition (1982) ~~and~~ Breen's Encyclopedia

(1983) I had brought to the attention of the authors.  
of U.S. Half Cents, the question as to the existence of the coin had ~~arisen~~.

It is  
and ~~it was~~ discussed on page 123 of Cohen and page 451 of Breen.

In 1954 a second specimen appeared for the first time in the Anderson-Dupont

sale, lot 1155. Thereafter, Judd, in the \_\_\_\_\_ edition, changed

its listing from "unique" to "two known."

The Spence Sale and Its Consequences

and in Walter Breen's  
Encyclopedia of United States and  
Colonial Proof Coins (1977).

However, the seventh edition of Judd, revised by  
Kosoff in 1982, still listed J155 as "two known."  
This demonstrates once again how far behind FAC  
members ~~are~~ specialists in other fields are.



February 16, 1990

The Dupont specimen reappeared as lot ~~880~~ <sup>880</sup> in the Spence sale

on March 15, 1975, ~~almost~~ <sup>before</sup> exactly fifteen years ~~from~~ the date of this issue

of Penny-Wise. I examined it carefully before the sale and then bought

it for a price approximately four times that of a regular copper proof,

*and about the same as the 1856 copper-nickel <sup>late date</sup> pattern in the same sale.* ~~of 1854~~ The coin seemed perfectly satisfactory to me. It had a golden

color well within the normal range of toned examples of the 1856 copper-nickel

pattern half cent. In fact, there was a slight edge nick which served

almost in the function ~~(or formation)~~ of a chop mark. Inside the nick,

the coin was also an appropriately brassy color. Moreover, the coin was

accompanied by the envelope from the Dupont sale, ~~which tied it precisely~~

~~to the listing in Judd.~~

When I got the coin home, however, something vaguely troubled me about

it. There was something not quite as good as it ought to be, but I couldn't

figure out what. Eventually, it dawned on me; <sup>it was too good!</sup> The coin was simply too

well struck up. It was fully struck <sup>on both</sup> the obverse and reverse, <sup>(both)</sup> as well as

<sup>including</sup> the denticles on both sides.

To understand the significance of this, one has to know that the 1856 copper-

nickel half cent pattern never comes fully struck up. I had unsuccessfully

searched for years for a fully struck specimen. <sup>Each one</sup> ~~Everyone~~ I had ever seen

The price was less than I had expected, because twenty years earlier, ~~in~~ in the ~~Dupont~~ Anderson Dupont sale it had sold for \$350, which was about eight times the ~~current~~ current price for a late date proof, and four times the price of an 1856 copper-nickel pattern. ~~in the same sale~~



(2)

or heard of had significant areas of flatness in the hair and on several

leaves, plus a consistently mushy area lacking details in many of the denticles.

*The illustrations on pages 456 and 457 of Breen's book, and those below in this article clearly illustrate that.*

The explanation always given was that the nickel was a much harder material,

and that the coinage presses in the Mint used for striking coins lacked

sufficient pressure to impress the details fully into the surface of the

tougher copper nickel planchet. Yet, here was this 1854 specimen struck

two years earlier, supposedly from the same material, without a trace of

*why?*  
flatness. ~~Speculation as to the reason instantly occurred to me.~~ Perhaps

since only two of the 1854s were made, special care was taken with extra

blows of the coinage press to make sure that the details were clear. But,

at the same time, there was a clear doubt that the coin in my hand was

made of copper-nickel.

↑

Next, I considered the weights of the respective coins, and the doubts

multiplied. The copper half cents of the 1850s weighed 84 grains. I had

not seen specimens that varied significantly from this standard. The 1856

copper-nickel patterns weighed consistently in the range of 70 to 72 grains.

*This coin was listed in the Anderson Dupont catalogue as weighing 84 grains, and the comment was repeated in the Spence Gale catalogue.*

Quickly, I popped the new acquisition on my scale, and the result was an

*unambiguous*

~~unequivocal~~ 84.1 grains. Uh, oh, trouble in River City!

Not knowing precisely what to do next, I consulted a friend and neighbor,

the noted numismatist, Eric P. Newman. He had no explanation for the differences

from the expected strike and weight of a copper nickel pattern. He offered

to send the coin to a friend in the chemistry lab at Washington University for an X-ray spectroscope, which he said would determine clearly what the metallic content was without damaging the coin.

We sent the coin off, together with a regular copper 1854 proof, a copper 1856 proof, and a copper nickel 1856 pattern.

When the results came back, they were unambiguous. <sup>The Dupont - Spence</sup> My ~~new~~ coin, except for traces of impurities, was all copper, just as were the 1854 and 1856 regular metal proofs. The 1856 copper-nickel pattern showed a clear presence of around 10 percent <sup>nickel.</sup> ~~metal~~ ↑

Naturally, my feelings were mixed. I had made an interesting discovery, but at the price of realizing that I did not have the rare coin I thought I had purchased. I returned the coin to Stack's with a copy of the chemical analysis. I received back a prompt refund along with a gracious letter of regret.

Next, of course, my thoughts turned to the other specimen. The Adams-Woodin piece now had the adjective "unique" restored to it. But, how sure was I that it was <sup>made of</sup> ~~a~~ copper-nickel? Perhaps it was also an unusually toned <sup>↑</sup> brassy looking regular copper proof. So began The Search.

#### The Search for Brown October

First, I looked to see if I could find a picture of the Adams-Woodin coin,



4  
Nor could I find any reference to its weight.

which might show whether it was fully struck or not. No luck. Then I  
asked people who might have seen the coin if they remembered whether or  
not it was fully struck. Actually, no one recalled ever having seen the  
coin, since it had disappeared from view many years earlier.

Eventually, I was told that the Adams-Woodin specimen had reappeared in the Farouk sale. I obtained a copy of the catalog. Sure enough, there

it was as part of lot # 1750. Rather surprisingly, it was part of a two-coin lot, combined with an 1855 copper pattern of a \$10 piece coin. -- certainly dissimilar enough. The two-coin lot sold for thirty Egyptian Pounds, or around \$90. to meet anybodies requirement for the definition of "miscellaneous lot."

The next bit of information that I received was that it had been bought at the Farouk sale by a Florida dealer named Randall. My search took on a new direction.

anecdotes

Some interesting information and lively ~~anecdotes~~ about Mr. Randall surfaced.

Unfortunately, included in that information that I was given was that he was deceased, as was Mrs. Randall. No one had the slightest clue as to who might have been a customer of his for a coin such as an 1854 copper nickel pattern half cent.

A gnawing worry invaded my thoughts. Suppose that the coin was, as I believed possible, only a regular copper 1854 half cent. But, suppose further that it had become somehow separated from its pedigree, so that there was nothing to link this ordinary half cent with its distinguished history. We would then be forever deprived of the opportunity to establish conclusively that the 1854 copper nickel pattern did not exist. It would retain forever the theoretical possibility of reemergence and thus sink into that dismal and unresolvable abyss of unresolved questions. (Urgent request -- All of you who own important or pedigreed coins, please keep the pedigrees with the coins for the benefit of future investigators.)



(6)

Years passed. More years. Every so often I would meet someone <sup>I thought</sup> who might possibly <sup>when I asked,</sup> know the location of the coin, <sup>^</sup> and <sup>^</sup> inquire. But no one had even a hunch.

### Eureka! The Norweb Sale

Suddenly, one day in early 1987 the phone rang. It was Frank Wilkinson.

<sup>half cents in the</sup> "You know the Norweb collection <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ going to be sold by Bowers and Merena

in a few months, don't you?" he asked. "Yes," I replied, "I am really

looking forward to it." "There is a coin in <sup>there</sup> ~~their~~ that I think you have

been looking for," said Frank mischievously. When he told me it was the

~~Adams~~ Woodin-Farouk specimen of the 1854 copper nickel pattern, I literally jumped out of my chair. Frank further told me that Del Bland had seen the coin and considered it to be a regular 1854 copper half cent. ~~STET~~

As soon as the coins were available for inspection, I rushed to see them.

<sup>half cents.</sup> ~~collection.~~ There were, of course, many fabulous ~~coins.~~ However, the

star ~~of the collection~~ <sup>me</sup> for <sup>lot 134,</sup> many was something that I believed to be among

one of the least rare half cents in the collection, namely an ordinary copper

1854. Almost from across the room I could see that it was fully struck

up. The color was within the normal range of toning, and the weight was

83.4 grains, ~~within the normal range~~ <sup>approximately the standard</sup> of the regular issue copper coins. given as ~~the standard 84 grains.~~

Eureka! Eureka! The undiscovery of a variety! The description in the

catalog gave a fair recital of the doubts concerning the metallic content

<sup>repeating Breen's comments at length.</sup> However, of the coin, <sup>but</sup> no actual analysis had been made. ~~The weight was listed as 83.4 grains.~~



*but not everybody,*  
Apparently, most others shared my view that the coin was merely a regular  
*about half the price of a choice 1856*  
copper one. I was able to buy it for \$ 1980. *copper nickel pattern, lot #138.* I considered that its  
actually value, except for its historical interest, was in the range of  
\$100. Everything over that I regarded as a philanthropic contribution  
made to further the study of numismatics. Again, *with* ~~enlisting~~ the assistance  
of Eric Newman, *was sent* ~~I sent~~ the coin off to be analyzed and began contemplating  
~~the writing of this article.~~ *this time to the ANA certification*  
*service in Colorado Springs.*

Shown below are pictures of the ~~Adams~~ Woodin-Farouk-Norweb specimen, along  
with a regular uncirculated 1854 copper half cent and an 1856 copper nickel  
pattern.

[ILLUSTRATIONS HERE]

At the EAC convention in Orlando, I plan to display these coins. At the  
Forum I will present the results of the metallic analysis and make a few  
other comments about the pleasures of the hunt for numismatic information.  
Any EAC member who will not be in Orlando is invited to study the evidence  
presented above and send me a vote as to whether the coin is a regular  
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it is not a copper nickel pattern, I would welcome any speculation as to  
how an otherwise careful numismatist such as Mr. Woodin could have made  
such a mistake. Please write me at P.O. Box 14020, St. Louis, MO 63178.  
Those who are going to be in Orlando will have an opportunity to see the  
coin before the Forum and cast a vote after direct inspection.



Also, for those not going to Orlando, I plan to summarize my remarks at the Forum in a follow-up article in the next issue of Penny-Wise.

R. TETTENHORST

(2nd draft)

## The 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half Cent - Does It Exist?

### Introduction

There are three purposes to this article. The first is to describe the pleasure of an experience in numismatic research that extended over approximately fifteen years. The second purpose is to demonstrate that almost any collector with enough <sup>and enthusiasm</sup> patience <sup>even though he may not</sup> can engage in numismatic research, ~~You do not have to~~ <sup>be</sup> one of EAC's more experienced and scholarly members ~~in order to make a contribution to knowledge in our field.~~ The third purpose <sup>is</sup> ~~of this article will be~~ to disclose the answer to the question as to whether the 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent exists.

The presentation will be in three parts, of which this article is the first. It will tell how the question arose and describe the search for the answer. The second part will be a visual and oral presentation <sup>at the forum during</sup> at EAC's 1990 Convention in Orlando, <sup>where the</sup> The coins will be displayed, <sup>and</sup> ~~At the forum, the answer~~ <sup>answered.</sup> to the question will be ~~revealed and discussed.~~ The third part will be <sup>a follow-up</sup> ~~a second~~ <sup>an article</sup> ~~written~~ <sup>on the subject</sup> ~~which will be published in~~ <sup>submitted to</sup> ~~summary in the next issue of Penny-Wise~~ <sup>for those not able to be at the Orlando</sup>

Convention.

### A Brief Review of the History of the 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half Cent

<sup>the 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half Cent</sup>  
The first published listing of <sup>this</sup> ~~this~~ coin was in the Adams and Woodin book entitled United States Pattern, Trial, and Experimental Pieces, published in 1913. The coin was listed as Adams-Woodin number 192 and described as "unique."

<sup>member</sup>  
<sup>what</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>became</sup> in ~~Sadd~~



In 1954 a second specimen appeared for the first time in the Anderson-Dupont

sale, lot 1155. The variety was listed in Judd's United States Pattern, Experimental

and Trial Pieces (1959) and given the number 155. The information ~~there~~ <sup>in Judd</sup> is

merely a restatement of what appeared in Adams-Woodin, with the addition of

the second specimen. Similar references ~~exist~~ <sup>were</sup> in Empire United States Half

Cents (1962), in the first edition of Roger Cohen's American Half Cents (1971),

and in Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins

(1977). By the time of <sup>the publication of</sup> Cohen's second edition (1982) and Breen's Encyclopedia

of U.S. Half Cents (1983), I had brought the question as to the existence of

the coin to the attention of ~~the~~ <sup>those</sup> authors. It is discussed on page 123 of Cohen

and page 451 of Breen. However, the seventh edition of Judd, revised by Kosoff

in 1982, still listed J155 as "two known." ~~This demonstrates once again how~~

~~far behind EAC member specialists in other fields are.~~

### Spence Sale and Its Consequences

The Dupont specimen reappeared as lot 880 in the Spence sale on March 15,

1975, exactly fifteen years before the date of this issue of Penny-Wise.

I examined it carefully before the sale and then bought it for a price

~~what did you pay?~~ approximately four times that of a regular late date copper proof, and

~~(J-)~~ about the same <sup>price</sup> as the 1856 copper-nickel pattern in the same sale. The

price was less than I had expected, because twenty years earlier, in the

Anderson-Dupont sale, ~~it~~ <sup>the same coin</sup> had sold for \$350, which was about eight times

the current price for a late date proof, and four times the price of an

1856 copper-nickel pattern.



The coin seemed perfectly satisfactory to me. It had a golden color well within the normal range of <sup>naturally</sup> toned examples of the 1856 copper-nickel pattern half cent. In fact, there was a slight edge nick which <sup>almost</sup> served ~~almost~~ in the function of a chop mark. Inside the nick the coin was also an appropriately ~~brassy~~ color. Moreover, the coin was accompanied by the envelope from the Dupont sale.

When I got the coin home, however, something vaguely troubled me about it. There was something not quite as good as it ought to be, but I couldn't figure out what. Eventually, it dawned on me <sup>that</sup> it was too good. The coin was simply too well struck up. It was fully struck on both the obverse and reverse, <sup>particularly</sup> including the denticles ~~on both sides~~.

To understand the significance of this, one has to <sup>realize</sup> ~~know~~ that the 1856 copper-nickel half cent pattern never comes fully struck up. I had unsuccessfully searched for years for a fully struck <sup>example</sup> ~~specimen~~. Each one I had ~~ever~~ seen or heard of had significant areas of flatness in the hair and on several leaves, plus a consistently mushy area ~~lacking details~~ in many of the denticles.

~~name it~~ Encyclopedia of US Half Cents  
The illustrations on pages 456 and 457 of Breen's ~~book~~, and those below

in this article, clearly <sup>show</sup> ~~illustrate~~ that. The explanation always given was that the nickel was a ~~much~~ <sup>metal than copper</sup> harder material, and that the coinage presses in the Mint used for striking <sup>copper</sup> coins lacked sufficient pressure to <sup>fully bring up</sup> ~~impress~~ the details <sup>onto</sup> ~~fully into~~ the <sup>faces</sup> ~~surface~~ of the tougher copper-nickel planchet.

Yet, here was this 1854 specimen struck two years earlier, supposedly from



the same material, without a trace of flatness. Why? Perhaps since only

~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> patterns <sup>a</sup> setting was made in two of the 1854s were made, special care was taken with extra blows of

the coinage press to make sure that the details were ~~clear~~ <sup>sharp</sup>. But, at the

same time, there was ~~a clear doubt that the coin in my hand was made of~~ <sup>now uncertainty as to whether these pieces were</sup>

copper-nickel, ~~the~~

Next, I considered the weights of the respective coins, and the doubts

multiplied. The <sup>normal</sup> copper half cents of the 1850s weighed <sup>close to average</sup> 84 grains. I had <sup>about</sup>

not seen specimens that varied significantly from this standard. The 1856

copper-nickel patterns weighed consistently in the range of 70 to 72 grains.

<sup>the 1854 pattern</sup>

This ~~coin~~ was listed in the Anderson-Dupont catalogue as weighing 84 grains,

and the comment was repeated in the Spence sale catalogue. Quickly, I

popped ~~my~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~pattern~~ <sup>the</sup> the new acquisition on ~~my~~ <sup>the</sup> scale, and the result was an unambiguous

84.1 grains. Uh, oh, trouble in River City!

Not knowing precisely what to do next, I consulted a friend and neighbor,

the noted numismatist, Eric P. Newman. He had no explanation for the differences <sup>in strike and weight between this 1854 and the 1856 patterns,</sup> ~~between~~ <sup>if they were made of the same metal.</sup> ~~from the expected strike and weight of a copper-nickel pattern.~~ He offered

to send the coin to a friend in the chemistry <sup>laboratory</sup> ~~lab~~ at Washington University <sup>in St Louis</sup> for an X-ray spectroscope, which he said would determine clearly what the metallic content was without damaging the coin.

We sent the coin off, together with a regular copper 1854 proof, a copper 1856 proof, and a copper-nickel 1856 pattern.

<sup>clear.</sup>

When the results came back, they were ~~unambiguous~~. The Dupont-Spence

coin, except for traces of impurities, was all copper, just as were the 1854 and 1856 regular metal proofs. The 1856 copper-nickel pattern showed a clear presence of around 10 percent nickel.

Naturally, my feelings were mixed. I had made an interesting discovery, but at the price of realizing that I did not have the rare coin I thought I had purchased. I returned the coin to Stack's with a copy of the chemical analysis. I received back a prompt refund along with a gracious letter of regret.

Next, of course, my thoughts turned to the other specimen. The Adams-Woodin piece now had the adjective "unique" restored to it. But, how sure was I that it was made of copper-nickel? Perhaps it was also an unusually toned brassy looking regular copper proof. So began The Search.

#### The Search for Brown October

First, I looked to see if I could find a picture of the Adams-Woodin coin, which might show whether it was fully struck or not. No luck. Nor could I find any reference to its weight. Then I asked people who might have seen the coin if they remembered whether or not it was fully struck. Actually, no one recalled ever having seen the coin, since it had disappeared from view many years earlier.

Eventually, I ~~was told~~<sup>learned</sup> that the Adams-Woodin specimen had reappeared



in the Farouk sale. ~~I obtained a copy of the catalogue.~~ Sure enough,  
there it was as part of lot 1750, combined with an 1855 copper pattern <sup>#10 U.S.</sup>  
~~of a \$10 coin.~~ The two-coin lot sold for thirty Egyptian Pounds, or around  
\$90.

The next bit of information that I received was that it had been bought  
at the Farouk sale by a Florida dealer named Randall. My search took on  
a new direction.

Some interesting information and lively anecdotes about Mr. Randall  
surfaced. Unfortunately, included in <sup>the</sup> ~~that~~ information ~~that I was given~~  
was that he was deceased, as was Mrs. Randall. No one had the slightest  
clue as to who might have been a customer of his for a coin such as an  
→ 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent.

A gnawing worry invaded my thoughts. Suppose that the coin was, as  
I believed possible, only a regular copper 1854 half cent. But, suppose  
further that it had become somehow separated from its pedigree, so that  
there was nothing to link this ordinary half cent with its distinguished  
history. We would then be forever deprived of the opportunity to establish  
→ conclusively that the 1854 copper-nickel pattern did not exist. It would  
retain forever the theoretical possibility of reemergence and thus sink  
into that dismal abyss of unresolved and unresolvable questions. (Urgent  
request -- All of you who own important or pedigreed coins, please keep  
the pedigrees with the coins for the benefit of future investigators.)

Years passed. More years. Every so often I would meet someone I thought might possibly know the location of the coin. But when I asked, no one had even a hunch.

### Eureka! The Norweb Sale

Suddenly, one day in early 1987 the phone rang. It was Frank Wilkinson. "You know the half cents in the Norweb collection are going to be sold by Bowers and Merena in a few months, don't you?" he asked. "Yes," I replied, "I am really looking forward to it." "There is a coin in there that I think you have been looking for," said Frank mischievously. When he told me it was the ~~Woodin~~ Farouk specimen of the 1854 copper-nickel pattern, I literally jumped out of my chair. Frank further told me that Del Bland had seen the coin and considered it to be a regular 1854 copper half cent.

As soon as the coins were available for inspection, I rushed to see them. There were, of course, many fabulous half cents. However, the star for me was lot 134, something that I believed to be ~~among one of the least~~ <sup>common</sup> ~~rare half cents in the collection~~, namely an ordinary copper 1854 <sup>half cent.</sup> Almost from across the room I could see that it was fully struck up. The color was within the normal range of <sup>natural</sup> toning, and the weight was given as 83.4 grains, approximately the standard of the regular issue copper <sup>half cents.</sup> ~~coins.~~

Eureka! Eureka! The undiscovery of a variety! The description in the catalogue gave a fair recital of the doubts concerning the metallic



content of the coin, repeating Breen's comments at length. However, no actual analysis had been made.

Apparently, most others, but not everyone, shared my view that the coin was merely a regular copper one. I <sup>thought</sup> ~~was able to buy~~ it for \$1,980. I considered that its actual ~~ly~~ value, except for its historical interest, was in the range of \$100. <sup>The excess</sup> ~~Everything over that~~ I regarded as a philanthropic contribution ~~made~~ to further the study of numismatics. Again, with the assistance of Eric Newman, the coin was sent off <sup>for non-destructive metal analysis</sup> ~~to be analyzed~~, this time to the ANA certification service <sup>which was able to secure the cooperation</sup> ~~in Colorado Springs.~~ of the personnel at Colorado College.

Shown below are pictures of the Woodin-Farouk-Norweb specimen, along with a regular uncirculated 1854 copper half cent and an 1856 copper-nickel pattern.

[ILLUSTRATIONS HERE]

At the EAC convention in Orlando, I plan to display these coins.

At the Forum I will present the results of the metallic analysis and make a few other comments about the pleasures of the hunt for numismatic information.

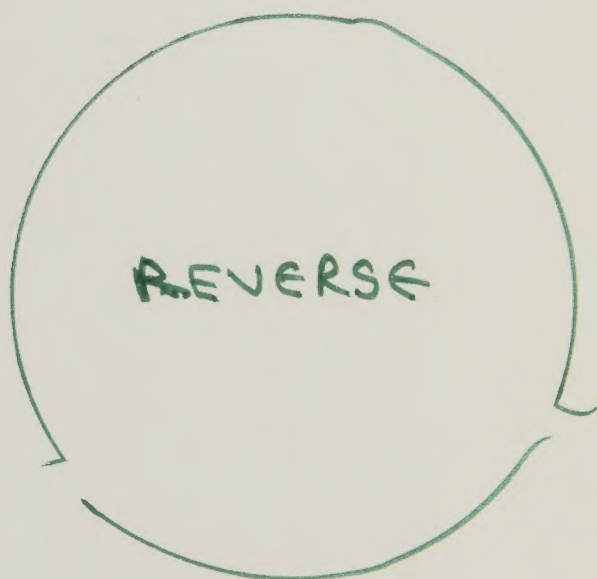
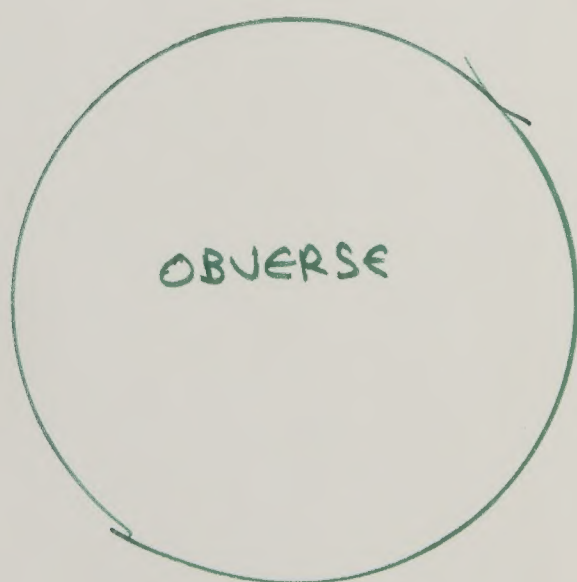
Any EAC member who will not be in Orlando is invited to study the evidence presented above and send me a vote as to whether the coin is a regular copper half cent, copper-nickel pattern, or something else. If you believe it is not a copper-nickel pattern, I would welcome any speculation as to how an otherwise careful numismatist such as Mr. Woodin could have made

such a mistake. Please write me at P.O. Box 14020, St. Louis, MO 63178.

Those who are going to be in Orlando will have an opportunity to see the coin before the Forum and cast a vote after direct inspection.

Also, for those not going to Orlando, I plan to <sup>submit</sup> ~~summarize~~ my remarks at the Forum <sup>for publication</sup> ~~in a follow-up article in the next issue of~~ Penny-Wise.

R. TETTENHORST





# Outline

①

The 1854 C-N - Does it exist?

## PART I

1. Introduction - purposes and methodology
2. The 1854 C-N, a review
3. The Spence Sale and its Consequences -  
a Question of Existence
4. Search
5. Eureka - The Norweb Sale and its Consequences.

## PART II INTERMISSION - The 1990 EAC Convention

## PART III

~~Part III~~

6. The Truth At Last
7. But still more questions
8. Some Conclusions and observations



## PART I

## 1. Introduction - Purposes and Methodology

- a. Describe the pleasure of numismatic research
- b. ~~and~~ demonstrate that anyone can do it
- c. Recount the narrative about the search for the 1854 CN
- d. Disclose the answer to the question as to its exist
- e. Will be in three parts, of which this is Part I, which <sup>it</sup> will tell how the question arose, and
- f. describe the search for the answer. Part II will be at EAC 1990, <sup>Display the coin, and at</sup> Educ. Forum, and reveal the truth about the 1854 CN FTFT, <sup>make some observations</sup> ~~Part III~~ about <sup>Numis Research</sup>
- g. <sup>Part III</sup> will be an article in next issue repeating what is said in part II for those members not in Orlando.

## 2. The 1854 CN, a review.

- a) History of the first specimen
- b) Appearance of a second specimen

## 3. Spence Sale and its Consequence

- a) The acquisition of Specimen # 2 - cost
- b) Something isn't right.
- c) Color OK, pedigree, envelope, book
- d) Strike
- e) Strike on 1856's
- f) Weight
- g) Weight on 1856's
- h) Send it off
- i) The response ~~and~~
- j) Return of coin
- k) But what about #1 - where is it?, what did it look like?  
Is it C-N, or only C-N in color?

R. Search



## 4. The Search for Brown October

- a) Early history
- b) Farouk
- c) Randall, anecdotes
- d) Then where? (Green pp. ...)
- e) The awful possibility - separated from its pedigree, we will never know. The Black Hole of Uncertainty.

## 5. Eureka - The Nakeeb Sale

- a) Letter from FW
- b) Del Bland's list
- c) Personal examination. Color, strike, weight
- d) Purchase - contribution to research <sup>others' dispute bid.</sup> <sup>Certainty</sup>
- e) Off to ANA - begin to write the article <sup>Nagging Q: How could error have been made?</sup>
- f) Photos: Invitation to vote.

## Part II - Intermission - ANA Exhibit, Forum

## 6. The Truth at last!

- a) The letter's contents. What a surprise!
7. <sup>STILL MORE QUESTIONS</sup> b) How could the mistake have been made?

- a) b) Other coins of similar content
- c) d) Trace the pedigree

## 8. Conclusions &amp; Observations

- a) NR is fun, even when not finding anything - <sup>and when</sup> do -- joy.
- b) Almost anyone can do it - Don't have to be an expert.  
patience, perseverance
- c) Don't believe everything you read. No matter how often it has been reprinted and how widely accepted it is some of it is wrong.
- d) Similar caution about one's own knowledge - just because you know something, don't think you know everything. Not what I don't know - it's what I do know <sup>that ain't so.</sup>
- e) There is an 1854 pattern  $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. And only one - so far - . And it <sup>is not it - it is</sup>



1854 CN

- Not in Woodside Collection of Patterns  
1892

- Col James W. Curtiss 1955 US Patt Coin Prices  
AW192 "unique, not available  
to collectors"

- Green + Hewitt Price Catalogue of US Patt Coins  
1940 ed. "1 known"

Quotes Mehl's Sale of 4/37 had both '56 's

Indices of:

- Numismatist
- A Journal Num
- Coin Coll Journal

ANSA and index p. 4950





ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

April 22, 1975

I have completed the electron microprobe analysis of the proof 1854 half cent which you submitted to me for determination of the nickel content. The enclosed X-ray spectra include a comparison of the 1854 proof piece with a heavily circulated 1860 cent known to contain 12% nickel, an 1856 pattern half cent, an uncirculated 1854 half cent, and a recent 'nickel', known to contain 25% nickel. Of the five pieces only the uncirculated 1854 half cent and the proof 1854 half cent show no detectable nickel content. Other than a slight iron impurity, the proof 1854 half cent appears to be pure copper identical with the currency piece. The 1856 pattern half cent, the 1860 cent and the recent nickel all contain nickel in various amounts. Based on the 12% nickel assumed for the 1860 cent, your 1856 pattern piece contains between 8 and 10% nickel. A more exact value is obtainable but would require more time than was available when these analyses were run.

The piece you submitted definitely does not contain nickel and appears to have the same grade of copper used in the regular coinage of the year.

This analysis was carried out in collaboration with Dr. David Zimmerman, at the Center for Archeometry, Washington University.

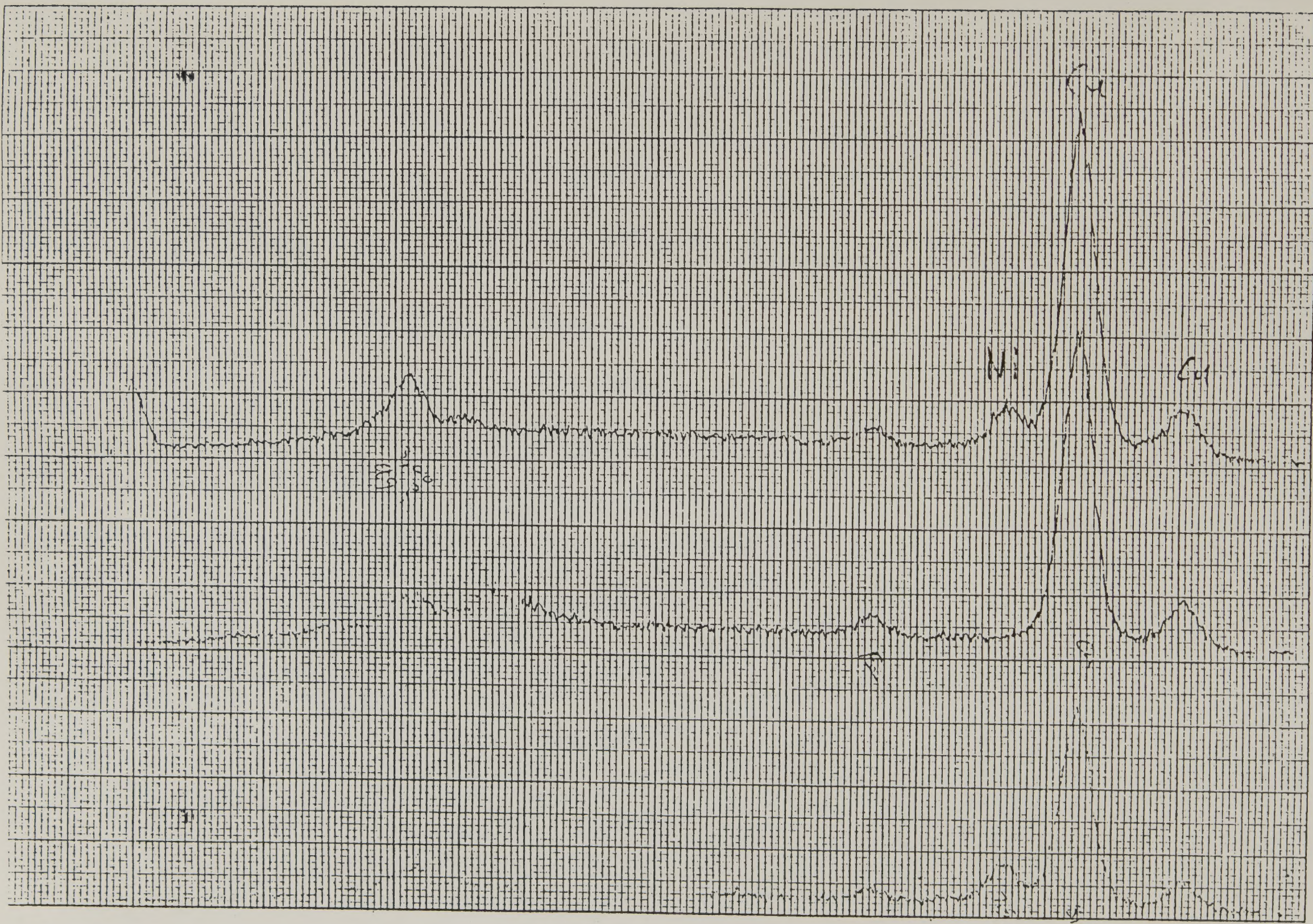
Sincerely yours,

Peter Gaspar  
Professor of Chemistry and  
Associate of the Center for Archeometry









1556  
pattern

1554  
pattern

0781

46 1242

K<sub>α</sub>E  
20 X 20 TO THE INCH • 7 X 10 INCHES  
KEUFFEL & ESSER CO. MADE IN U.S.A.



X-Ray Fluorescence Examination  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
July 9, 1984

% Found of Elements Examined, with X-rays employed.  
Cu(K $\alpha$ )    Zn(K $\alpha$ )    Ni(K $\alpha$ )    Sn(L $\alpha$ )

Coin

1854 unc. 1/2 cent	95.4 $\pm$ 4%	n.d.	0.2%	n.d.
1854 normal proof 1/2 cent	95.0 $\pm$ 4%	n.d.	0.2%	n.d.
1856 "Cu-Ni" proof 1/2 cent	88.6 $\pm$ 3%	2.2 $\pm$ 0.3%	9.7 $\pm$ 1%	n.d.
1854 experimental(?) proof 1/2 cent.	96.6 $\pm$ 4%	n.d.	0.05%	0.01%

n.d. = not detected (< 0.01%)

A conventional Siemens X-ray fluorescence spectrometer was employed using 40 KV Chromium X-rays to excite the sample. A 1/2" diameter area of the coin's reverse was scanned in each case. Scan times were less than 5 min. Note that the apparently low copper readings are presumed due to saturation at high counting rates. The other values are more accurate.

*P. H. Harper*



3-2

Told Mr. HUNT  
not  
SEARCH  
Salvards ~~this~~  
was fine...

He thought  
the photos  
would be  
just fine.

Feb. 27, 1990

Dear Tett,

You really "spin the tale" quite well! Obviously, there's more here than meets the eye — or can be settled in a casual weighing. Like many others will surely be, I am eager to hear the following.

One small emendation, if I may — For those who might not have a Norweb I catalogue, I think it might add to the ambiguity surrounding the coin to insert the following into the next-to-last paragraph on page 5:

The catalogue itself hedged on the <sup>coin's composition</sup> ~~issue~~; whereas the 1856 Copper-Nickel examples in the Norweb sale (lots 138-9) were unequivocally described as being in that metal — and weighed at 70.8 and 69.8 grains, respectively — this 1854 example was highlighted as

FAMOUS 1854 "COPPER-NICKEL" HALF CENT.

The description went on to cite Breen's comments at length, adding, "As no metallurgical analysis has been made of this piece, no warranty <sup>is</sup> ~~has been~~ given



except to say that it has traditionally been described as copper-nickel."

I'll assume this is all right with you unless I hear otherwise in the next few days.

This is our lead article for the March issue, and you can be justly proud of it!

Sincere regards —

Harry.

R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

February 27, 1990

Mr. Walter Breen  
Box 352  
Berkeley, CA 94701

Dear Walter:

Enclosed is a copy of the article I have submitted for publication in the March 15 issue of Penny-Wise. This was really a fun quest for me over the years, and I am trying to communicate some sense of the enjoyment that exists in the hunt for information.

I hope the large cent errors were useful to you, and I am looking forward to seeing you in Orlando.

Sincerely,

R. Tettenhorst

m

Enclosure



March 6, 1990

ROGER COHEN

Enclosed is an advance copy of  
the article I have submitted for  
publication in the March 15 issue  
of Penney-Wise.

I am really looking forward to  
seeing you in Orlando.

FROM THE DESK OF R. TETTENHORST

R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

May 17, 1990

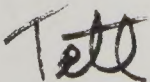
Mr. Roger Cohen  
4701 Sangamore Road, Suite S-200  
Bethesda, MD 20816

Dear Roger:

Enclosed is a draft of Part II on the 1854 pattern half cent, which I have submitted to Penny-Wise for publication in the next issue. I thought you might enjoy reading an advance copy, since you missed hearing the results at EAC.

All the half-sense characters missed seeing you, also. We certainly hope you are feeling a good deal better very quickly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tet' or 'Tetth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

R. Tettenhorst

m

Enclosure



**EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.**

501 NORTH BROADWAY, P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO 63178

BERNARD EDISON

May 16, 1990

Mrs. Ruth Tilsley  
930 Berkeley Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90403

Dear Ruthie:

You asked for a copy of my speech. However, on reflection, I think that it would be better to send you the enclosed. They are copies of the first article which appeared in the March 15 issue of Penny-Wise, the educational journal of the Early American Coppers, Inc. The second attachment is the concluding part, which will be printed in the next issue of Penny-Wise.

The speech itself was a combination of these two articles. However, it was delivered with colored slides illustrating the coins. The text would be harder to follow without seeing the slides, since I referred to various features on the screen at a number of points in the speech.

Love,

mb

Enclosures

5/17/90

ERIC NEWMAN

This is a revised draft as  
submitted to Penny-Wise.

Thank you for your many  
suggestions.

Tell

FROM THE DESK OF BERNARD EDISON



R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

May 17, 1990

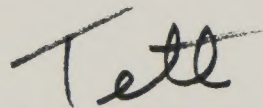
Dr. Harry Salyards  
606 N. Minnesota  
Hastings, NE 68901

Dear Harry:

Enclosed is a draft of the second article on the 1854 pattern half cent. Please feel free to apply your usual sharp editorial eye and make whatever improvements you feel appropriate.

Thanks for the encouragement that you have given me since I first conceived of publishing this in two parts in Penny-Wise.

Sincerely,



R. Tettenhorst

m

Enclosure

PS Eric has agreed to make a presentation at the 1992 Forum.

THE 1854 COPPER-NICKEL PATTERN HALF CENT - DOES IT EXIST? -- PART II

R. TETTENHORST

Hello again, Patient Readers!

When last we chatted, the Woodin-Farouk-Norweb coin, the so-called 1854 copper-nickel pattern, had been sent off to the ANA Certification Service for an X-ray spectroscopic ~~exam~~. Based on ~~my~~ <sup>the</sup> experience with the Dupont-Spence specimen and the full-strike plus 83.4 grain weight of the Norweb specimen, I knew what the results of the test would be. ~~I was confident that.~~

- 1) It was impossible for there to be nickel in the alloy, and, therefore,
- 2) the Norweb coin was a regular copper 1854 half cent, and thus
- 3) since the coin was the only specimen ~~claimed to exist~~ <sup>known</sup> of Judd 155, the latter did not exist.

While awaiting the return of the letter confirming these facts, I began writing ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> article entitled "The Undiscovery of a Variety."

When the letter from the ANA Certification Service did arrive, I opened it almost nonchalantly. However, ~~my~~ certainty soon dissolved. The first assumption was indeed correct. The coin did not contain any nickel. However, from there on I could not have been more wrong.

The metallic content of the coin, rounded off, was:

nickel	0%
copper	80%
tin	16%
silver	4%

Tin! Silver! Clearly J155 was firmly reestablished as a pattern in an experimental alloy. What a totally unexpected development!

From every answered question comes a variety of conclusions, and usually a new set of questions. ~~The following have occurred to me as~~



12  
a result of this experience.

### CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Searching for numismatic information is great fun. In fact, it can be as much fun as searching for coins. Even when I wasn't making any progress toward the answer I was looking for, it was an enjoyable experience. I met many friendly numismatists. Typically, they listened to ~~my~~<sup>the</sup> question and the reason for asking it; they expressed interest; they encouraged me to continue the search; and they made suggestions as to other people <sup>who</sup> I might ~~be~~<sup>be</sup> ~~talk to~~ <sup>contacted</sup>.
- 2) Almost anyone can do it. The observations ~~I~~<sup>made</sup> and investigations ~~I undertook~~<sup>undertaken</sup> did not require any particular depth of numismatic knowledge. As our mid-western farmers sometimes say, "Even a blind pig will pick up an acorn once in a while."
- 3) Just because something has been written down in books for a long time and repeated often doesn't always mean that it is true.
- 4) A certain humility is important for a researcher. Just because I knew some significant facts didn't mean that I knew all the facts.
- 5) J155 is a pattern, but, of course, with a much different metallic content than has traditionally been ascribed to it.

### QUESTIONS

- 1) Why did Mr. Woodin make a mistake of this magnitude?
- 2) Why did so many knowledgeable numismatists examine the Woodin-Farouk-Norweb specimen and the Dupont-Spence specimen over the years without raising the questions about strike and weight, which are so obvious using hindsight?
- 3) Why was there tin and silver in this alloy? Here let me offer some hypotheses. ~~As~~<sup>A</sup> to the tin: J. P. Martin of the ANA Certification

Service quotes a letter from James C. Booth, the melter and assayer of the mint, who said that more tin was added "in an attempt to prevent the bronze pieces from tarnishing." As to the silver:

In the era in which this coin was made, those responsible for our money were still operating under the quaint nineteenth-century notion that money should have value. They did not realize that one could rely solely on the integrity of our elected officials to make sure that money retained its full ~~value~~ <sup>worth</sup>. They believed that you needed precious metal content in money to avoid inflation.

since the mint was testing alloys for

It was such a cynical age! ~~If the mint were considering~~ a smaller one-cent piece to replace the large coppers which most of us love, 4 percent silver content would be just about what was needed to ensure that the new coins would have one cent worth of metal.

- 4) Are there other nineteenth-century patterned <sup>W</sup> coins which have a metallic content different from that which is listed in the current reference works? How many others have actually been tested?

Finally, appreciation should be expressed to Frank Wilkinson for the clarity of his photographs, which revealed <sup>W</sup> so clearly the critical issue of strike quality. Also, thanks are due to those EAC members who wrote me at length after the March, 1990 article appeared and the others who expressed verbal and written opinions at the convention. And, of course, without the help of Eric Newman who arranged for and those who carried out the non-destructive metallic tests, none of the new information would be known.



## THE 1854 COPPER-NICKEL PATTERN HALF CENT - DOES IT EXIST? - PART II

STET

By R. TETTENHORST

Hello again, Patient Readers!

At the end of Part I of the 1854 Copper-Nickel Half Cent saga, ~~When last we chatted~~, the Woodin-Farouk-Norweb coin, the so-called ~~Judd 155~~ (Judd-155) American Numismatic Association 1854 copper-nickel pattern, had been sent off to the ~~ANACS~~ Certification Service for ~~an X-ray spectroscopy~~ analysis. Based on the experience of finding that the Dupont-Spence piece was 100% copper and ~~not a pattern~~ and based upon specimen ~~and~~ the full-strike ~~plus~~ 83.4 grain weight of the Norweb specimen piece, I thought I knew what the results of the test would be, namely:

1) ~~It was impossible for there to be nickel in the alloy; and, because the coin has a full strike, it is not a pattern.~~ ~~therefore,~~

2) ~~thus,~~ ~~the Norweb coin was a regular copper 1854 half cent; and thus~~

3) ~~thus,~~ ~~no other example of J-155 was~~ ~~that pattern~~ since the coin was the only specimen known of Judd 155, the latter

~~simply~~ did not exist.

While awaiting ~~the return of the letter~~ ~~confirming these facts~~, I began writing an article ~~entitled~~ "The Undiscovery of a Variety."

ANACS

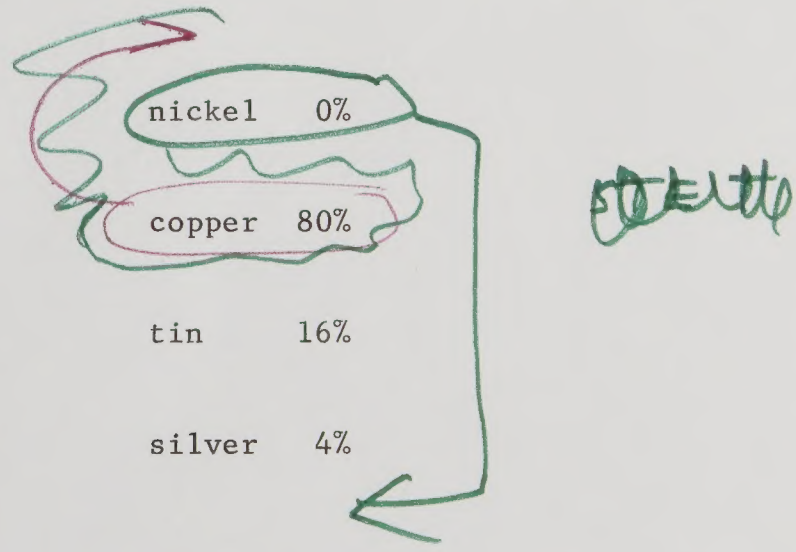
When the letter from the ANA Certification Service did arrive, I

*casually* opened it. ~~However my non-chalance~~ ~~almost nonchalantly~~ ~~However, certainty~~ soon dissolved. ~~The~~ *My*

first assumption was indeed correct, ~~The~~ *since the* coin did not contain any nickel.

*as to the other assumptions I was shocked.*  
However, ~~from there on, I could not have been more wrong.~~  
*STE T*

*approximate*  
The metallic content of the coin, ~~rounded off~~, was:



*J-155*

Tin! Silver! Clearly ~~J155~~ was firmly reestablished as a pattern

in an experimental alloy. What a totally unexpected development!

*answered question comes a number of conclusions,*  
~~set of facts there sometimes can be different~~  
*and often* From every ~~answered question comes a variety of conclusions, and but not here.~~  
~~what resulted was~~  
~~usually~~ a new set of questions.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Searching for numismatic information is great fun. In fact,



3

it can be as much fun as searching for coins. Even when I wasn't making any progress toward the answer I was looking for, it was an enjoyable experience. I met many friendly numismatists.

Typically, they listened to the question and the reason for asking it; they expressed interest; they encouraged me to continue the search; and they made suggestions as to other people who might be contacted.

- research,*
- 2) Almost anyone can do ~~it~~. The observations made and investigations undertaken did not require any particular depth of numismatic knowledge. As our mid-western farmers sometimes say, "Even a blind pig will pick up an acorn once in a while."
- 3) Just because something has been written down in books for a long time and repeated often doesn't always mean that it is true.
- 4) A certain humility is important for a researcher. Just because I knew some significant facts didn't mean that I knew all the facts.

J-155

- 5) ~~J155~~ is a pattern, but, of course, with a much different metallic content than ~~has traditionally been~~ <sup>was previously</sup> ascribed to it.

QUESTIONS

STET

- 1) ~~Why did Mr. Woodin make a mistake of this magnitude?~~ <sup>was guessing as to the metallic content of this pattern</sup> ~~or was its content improperly stated on some record. (Admittedly he had little non-destructive means to determine the content almost 50 years ago.~~
- 2) Why did so many knowledgeable numismatists examine the Woodin-Farouk-Norweb <sup>half cent</sup> ~~specimen~~ and the Dupont-Spence <sup>half cent</sup> ~~specimen~~ over the years without raising the questions about <sup>differences in</sup> strike and weight, which are so obvious using hindsight?
- 3) Why was there tin and silver in this alloy? Here let me offer <sup>Norweb coin</sup> some hypotheses. As to the ~~tin~~ <sup>1/2</sup> J. P. Martin of the <sup>ANACS</sup> ~~ANA Certification Service~~ quotes a letter from James C. Booth, the melter and assayer of the <sup>U.S. Mint at Philadelphia</sup> ~~mint~~, who said that more tin was added "in an attempt to prevent the bronze pieces from tarnishing." As to the ~~silver~~ <sup>X</sup> since the mint was testing alloys for a smaller one-cent piece to replace the large coppers <sup>cents</sup> ~~which most of us love~~ <sup>a</sup> 4 percent silver content would be ~~just~~ about what was needed to ensure



that the new coins would <sup>contain</sup> <sup>35</sup> have one cent worth of metal. <sup>At</sup> ~~In~~ the

<sup>time when</sup> <sup>pattern</sup> ~~era in which~~ this coin was made, those responsible for our <sup>coins</sup> ~~money~~

were still operating under the quaint ~~nineteenth century~~ notion

~~coins~~ <sup>intrinsic</sup> that ~~money~~ should have value. They did not realize that one ~~should~~

~~could~~ rely solely on the integrity of our elected officials to

make sure that money retained its full <sup>value</sup> ~~worth~~. They believed

that you needed <sup>full</sup> precious metal content in ~~money~~ <sup>coin</sup> to avoid inflation.

It was such a ~~backward~~ <sup>cynical</sup> age!

4) Are there other nineteenth-century pattern coins which have a

metallic content different from <sup>what is specified</sup> ~~that which is listed~~ in the ~~current~~ <sup>test</sup>

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Finally, appreciation should be expressed to Frank Wilkinson for

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me <sup>Part I of</sup> ~~at length~~ after the <sup>March, 1990</sup> article appeared and ~~the~~ others who

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R. TETTENHORST

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The approximate metallic content of the coin was:

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Tin! Silver! Clearly J-155 was firmly reestablished as a pattern in an experimental alloy. What a totally unexpected development!



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From every answered question comes a number of conclusions, and often a new set of questions.

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- 1) Why did Mr. Woodin make a mistake of this magnitude?
- 2) Why did so many knowledgeable numismatists examine the Woodin-Farouk-Norweb half cent and the Dupont-Spence half cent over the years without raising the questions about differences in strike and weight, which are so obvious using hindsight?

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\* \* \*



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## THE 1854 COPPER-NICKEL PATTERN HALF CENT - DOES IT EXIST?

R. Tettenhorst

### Introduction

There are three purposes to this article. The first is to describe the pleasure of an experience in numismatic research that extended over approximately fifteen years. The second is to demonstrate that almost any collector with enough patience and enthusiasm can engage in numismatic research, even though he may not be one of EAC's more experienced and scholarly members. The third purpose is to disclose the answer to the question, does the 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent exist?

The presentation will be in three parts, of which this article is the first. It will tell how the question arose and describe the search for the answer. The second part will be a visual and oral presentation at the Educational Forum during EAC's 1990 Convention in Orlando, where the coin will be displayed and the question will be answered. The third part will be a follow-up article on the subject which will be submitted to Penny-Wise.

### A Brief Review of the History of the 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half Cent

The first published listing of the 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent was in the Adams and Woodin book entitled United States Pattern, Trial, and Experimental Pieces, published in 1913. The coin was listed as Adams-Woodin number 192 and described as "unique." In 1954 a second specimen appeared for the first time in the Anderson-Dupont sale, lot 1155. The variety was listed in Judd's United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces (1959) and given the number 155. The information in Judd is merely a restatement of what appeared in Adams-Woodin, with the addition of the second specimen. Similar references were in Empire Coin Company's United States Half Cents (1962); in the first edition of Roger Cohen's American Half Cents (1971); and in Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins (1977). By the time of the publication of Cohen's second edition (1982) and Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents (1983), I had brought the question of the existence of the coin to the attention of those authors. It is discussed on page 123 of Cohen and page 451 of Breen. However, the seventh edition of Judd, revised by Kosoff in 1982, still listed J155 as "two known."

### The Spence Sale and Its Consequences

The Dupont specimen reappeared as lot 880 in the Spence sale on March 15, 1975, exactly fifteen years before the date of this issue of Penny-Wise. I examined it carefully before the sale and then bought it for \$1,700, a price approximately four times that of a regular late date copper proof, and about the same price as the 1856 copper-nickel pattern in the same sale. The price was less than I had expected, because twenty years earlier, in the Anderson-Dupont sale, the same coin had sold for \$350, which was about eight times the current price for a late date proof, and four times the price of an 1856 copper-nickel pattern.

The coin seemed perfectly satisfactory to me. It had a golden color well within the normal range of naturally toned examples of the 1856 copper-nickel



pattern half cent. In fact, there was a slight edge nick which almost served the function of a chop mark. Inside the nick the coin was also an appropriate brassy color. Moreover, the coin was accompanied by the envelope from the Dupont sale.

When I got the coin home, however, something vaguely troubled me about it. Something was not quite as good as it ought to be, but I couldn't figure out what. Eventually, it dawned on me that it was too good. The coin was simply too well struck up. It was fully struck on both the obverse and reverse, particularly the denticles.

To understand the significance of this, one has to realize that the 1856 copper-nickel half cent pattern never comes fully struck up. I had unsuccessfully searched for years for a fully struck example. Each one I had seen or heard of had significant areas of flatness in the hair and on several leaves, plus a consistently mushy area lacking details in many of the denticles. The illustrations on pages 456 and 457 of Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents, and those below in this article, clearly show that. The explanation always given was that nickel was a harder metal than copper, and that the coinage presses in the Mint used for striking copper coins lacked sufficient pressure to fully bring up the details onto the faces of the tougher copper-nickel planchet. Yet, here was this 1854 specimen struck two years earlier, supposedly from the same material, without a trace of flatness. Why? Perhaps since only two of the 1854 patterns were made, a special setting was made in the coinage press to make sure that the details were sharp. Perhaps... but on the other hand, there was now uncertainty as to whether these pieces were made of copper-nickel.

Next, I considered the weights of the respective coins, and the doubts multiplied. The normal copper half cents of the 1850s weighed about 84 grains. I had not seen specimens that varied significantly from this standard. The 1856 copper-nickel patterns weighed consistently in the range of 70 to 72 grains. This 1854 pattern was listed in the Anderson-Dupont catalogue as weighing 84 grains, and the comment was repeated in the Spence sale catalogue. Quickly, I popped my new acquisition on the scale, and the result was an unambiguous 84.1 grains. Uh oh, trouble in River City!

Not knowing precisely what to do next, I consulted a friend and neighbor, the noted numismatist, Eric P. Newman. He had no explanation for the differences in strike and weight between this 1854 and the 1856 patterns, if they were made of the same metal. He offered to send the coin to a friend in the chemistry laboratory at Washington University in St. Louis for an X-ray spectroscopic exam, which he said would determine clearly what the metallic content was without damaging the coin.

We sent the coin off, together with a regular copper 1854 proof, a copper 1856 proof, and a copper-nickel 1856 pattern. When the results came back, they were clear. The Dupont-Spence coin, except for traces of impurities, was all copper, just as were the 1854 and 1856 regular metal proofs. The 1856 copper-nickel pattern showed a clear presence of around 10 percent nickel.

Naturally, my feelings were mixed. I had made an interesting discovery, but at the expense of realizing that I did not have the rare coin I thought I had purchased. I returned the coin to Stack's with a copy of the chemical



analysis. I received a prompt refund along with a gracious letter of regret.

Next, of course, my thoughts turned to the other specimen. The Adams-Woodin piece now had the adjective "unique" restored to it. But, after my experience discrediting the other supposed example, how sure could anyone be that the Adams-Woodin piece was indeed made of copper-nickel? Perhaps it was also an unusually toned brassy-looking regular copper proof. So began The Search.

### The Hunt for Brown October

First, I looked to see if I could find a picture of the Adams-Woodin coin, which might show whether it was fully struck or not. No luck. Nor could I find any reference to its weight. Then I asked people who might have seen the coin if they remembered whether or not it was fully struck. But no one recalled ever having seen the coin, since it had disappeared from view many years earlier.

Eventually, I learned that the Adams-Woodin specimen had reappeared in the Farouk sale as part of lot 1750, combined with an 1855 copper \$10 U.S. pattern. The two-coin lot sold for thirty Egyptian Pounds, or around \$90. It had been bought by a Florida dealer named Randall. My search took on a new direction. I uncovered some interesting information and lively anecdotes about Mr. Randall. Unfortunately, included in the information was the fact that he was deceased, as was Mrs. Randall. No one had the slightest clue as to who might have been a customer of his for a coin such as an 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent.

A gnawing worry invaded my thoughts. Suppose that the coin was, as I believed possible, only a regular copper 1854 half cent. And suppose further that it had somehow become separated from its pedigree, so that there was nothing to link this ordinary half cent with its distinguished history. We would then be forever deprived of the opportunity to establish conclusively that the 1854 copper-nickel pattern did not exist. It would retain forever the theoretical possibility of reemergence and thus sink into that dismal abyss of unresolved and unresolvable questions. (Urgent request -- All of you who own important or pedigreed coins, please keep the pedigrees with the coins for the benefit of future investigators.)

Years passed. More years. Every so often I would meet someone I thought might possibly know the location of the coin. But when I asked, no one had even a hunch.

### Eureka! The Norweb Sale

Suddenly, one day in early 1987 the phone rang... It was Frank Wilkinson. "You know the half cents in the Norweb collection are going to be sold by Bowers and Merena in a few months, don't you?" he asked. "Yes," I replied, "I'm really looking forward to it." "There is a coin in there that I think you have been looking for," said Frank mischievously. When he told me it was the Farouk specimen of the 1854 copper-nickel pattern, I literally jumped out of my chair. Frank further told me that Del Bland had seen the coin and considered it to be a regular 1854 copper half cent.





1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern ??? Woodin-Farouk-Norweb



1856 Copper-Nickel Pattern

At the EAC Convention in Orlando, I plan to display these coins. At the Forum I will present the results of the metallic analysis and make a few other comments about the pleasures of the hunt for numismatic information. Any EAC member who will not be in Orlando is invited to study the evidence presented above and send me a vote as to whether the coin is a regular copper half cent, a copper-nickel pattern, or something else. If you believe it is not a copper-nickel pattern, I would welcome any speculation as to how an otherwise careful numismatist such as Mr. Woodin could have made such a mistake. Please write me at P.O. Box 14020, St. Louis, MO 63178. Those who are going to be in Orlando will have an opportunity to see the coin before the Forum and cast a vote after direct inspection.

Also for those not going to Orlando, I plan to submit my remarks at the Forum for publication in Penny-Wise.

\* \* \* \* \*



R. TETTENHORST

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The approximate metallic content of the coin was:

copper	80%
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Tin! Silver! Clearly J-155 was firmly reestablished as a pattern in an experimental alloy. What a totally unexpected development!

From every answered question comes a number of conclusions, and often a new set of questions.

## CONCLUSIONS

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May 16, 1990

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One of the major purposes of this talk is to demonstrate to those people who haven't tried it that there is a lot of fun in looking for facts about old coppers. It can be as much fun as looking for coins. Also, I want to express the opinion that just about anyone can do it. You do not have to be one of the great intellectual numismatists of EAC in order to add a little bit to our common fund of knowledge.

This talk will also reveal for the first time the truth about the metallic composition of a coin which has been known as Judd 155 - the so-called 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent. Undoubtedly many of you did not read my article describing the history of this coin in the March issue of Penny-Wise. There may even be one or two who read the article but did not commit every syllable of it to memory. Therefore, let me summarize the facts that had been known until recently, and illustrate some of the relevant points.

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12  
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How did the question about this long accepted coin arise? The Dupont specimen reappeared as lot 880 in Stack's Spence sale in 1975. I bought it for about four times what a regular copper proof of 1854 sold for. At first glance the coin seemed perfectly satisfactory to me. It had a golden color well within the normal range of naturally toned examples of the 1856 copper-nickel pattern. In fact, there was a slight edge nick which almost served the function of a chop mark. Inside the nick the coin was an appropriately brassy color. And, the coin was accompanied by the envelope from the Dupont sale. But something bothered me about it. Something was not quite as good as it ought to be, but I couldn't figure out what. Then it dawned on me that it was too good. The coin was simply too well struck up. It was fully struck on both the obverse and reverse, particularly the denticles.

S L I D E

This is what the copper-nickel half cent pattern struck in 1856 looks like. Because of the hardness the nickel adds to the alloy, notice the flat strike on parts of the hair and, in particular, the mushy areas in many of the denticles.

S L I D E

16

Notice the flat areas on the highest leaves and the denticles on this, which is the reverse of the same coin. Illustrations in all reference books clearly show this lack of complete detail.

S L I D E

By comparison, here is a typical regular issue copper 1856. The denticles are complete.

S L I D E

And this is the reverse. See the detail in the high leaves.

S L I D E

And here is another copper-nickel specimen.

S L I D E

And its reverse.

The 1856 copper-nickel pattern is relatively common. Yet, I have never seen nor heard of a fully struck up example.

S L I D E (BLANK)

However, the 1854 that I had just purchased was fully struck up. How could it possibly be copper-nickel?



I began thinking about the weights. The regular copper half cents of the 1850s adhered closely to the 84 grain standard. The 1856 copper-nickel patterns weighed consistently in the range of 70-72 grains. The 1854 pattern was listed in the Anderson-Dupont catalog as weighing 84 grains, like the regular issue. This comment was repeated in the Spence sale catalog. I quickly weighed my new acquisition, and the result was an unambiguous 84.1 grains.

Now my skepticism was really aroused. I consulted a long-time friend and neighbor, Eric Newman. He had no explanation for the differences in strike and weight, but offered to send the coin to a friend at the chemistry lab at Washington University for an X-ray spectroscopic exam. The results were clear. The Dupont-Spence coin, except for traces of impurities, was all copper. When I sent the coin and findings back to Stack's, I received a prompt refund with a gracious letter of regret.

Now, of course, the question arose as to the true metallic content of the original specimen, which might again claim the adjective "unique." How could anyone be sure that the Adams-Woodin piece was indeed copper-nickel; perhaps it was also an unusually toned copper proof.

I couldn't find a picture of it anywhere which might show the strike or any reference to its strike or weight. I talked to endless numbers of people trying to locate the coin, or a picture, or a description, or even a memory of what it looked like. Zero. . . . Zilch. . . . Nada. . . .

*Nevertheless - fun - friendly - encouraged - interested*  
Nothing. ^ Eventually I learned that the Adams-Woodin coin had reappeared in the Farouk sale and been bought by a Florida dealer named Randall.

*More friendly*  
^ Mr. Randall had since died, and had left behind no information as to what had become of the 1854 Adams-Woodin coin. Now I was really worried.



15  
Supposing my suspicions were right, that this coin was also a regular copper 1854 half cent, but that it had become separated from its pedigree. Now we would have just a regular copper coin, and we would forever be deprived of the opportunity to establish conclusively that the 1854 copper-nickel pattern did not exist. Its reemergence would remain forever possible. Please, everybody, keep the pedigrees of your significant coins with the coins.

For years the search appeared to be at a dead-end. Then, finally in early 1987 my phone rang. It was Frank Wilkinson. He told me that the Norweb collection, which was to be sold by Bowers and Merena, had a coin in it that I had been looking for. When he told me it was the Woodin-Farouk specimen of the 1854 copper-nickel pattern, I literally jumped out of my chair. Frank further told me that Del Bland had seen the coin, said it was well struck, and considered it to be a regular 1854 copper half cent.

When the Norweb lots were available for inspection, there were many terrific rarities. However, the star for me was a coin I considered to be absolutely common. It was lot 134, which I believed to be a regular issue 1854 half cent, R1. It had normal color, the weight was given as 83.4 grains, and it was fully struck up. The catalog was careful to describe the question as to the coin's metallic content and quoted at length from Walter's book. The catalog concluded by saying "As no metallic analysis has been made of this piece, no warranty is given except to say that it has traditionally been described as copper-nickel."

S L I D E



Here is a regular copper 1854 half cent.

S L I D E

And its reverse.

S L I D E

And here is a picture of the Woodin-Farouk-Norweb coin, which is on display in the exhibit section of this convention.

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And its reverse. Everyone who has ventured an opinion considers it to be a regular copper half cent, just as I did.

Nevertheless, to resolve the question I bought the coin for \$1,980. I considered that its actual value, except for its historical interest, was in the range of \$100. The excess I regarded as a philanthropic contribution to the study of numismatics. And to satisfy my own 15-year-old curiosity.

Again, with the assistance of Eric Newman, the coin was sent off for non-destructive metallic analysis, this time to the ANA Certification Service. While awaiting its return, I sat down to write an article about the undiscovery of a variety, explaining that the J155 pattern did not exist.

When the coin was returned with its analysis, I began to read the letter routinely, certain of what it would say. Sure enough, I was right; there is no nickel in this well struck coin.

S L I D E

But from there on I couldn't have been more wrong. The composition is 80 percent copper;

S L I D E

16 percent tin;

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and 4 percent silver.

S L I D E

The letter went on to add that the coin had been tested at two different places on its surface and that with infinitesimal differences, the results were the same at both spots.

What a surprise! The J155 1854 pattern does exist, only its metallic content is dramatically different from that which had always been attributed to it.

S L I D E (BLANK)



Opinions I have reached as a result of this experience include: Searching for information about early coppers is a lot of fun. The search itself is fun even when you don't come up with any significant answers. And, secondly, almost anyone can do it. The observations I made and investigations I undertook did not require any particular depth of numismatic knowledge. As our mid-western farmers sometimes say "Even a blind pig will pick up an acorn once in a while." A third opinion is that just because something has been written down in books for a long time and repeated often doesn't always mean that it is true. A fourth opinion is that a certain humility is important for a researcher. Just because I knew some significant facts didn't mean that I knew all the facts.

And, of course, one answer generates several new questions. Why did Mr. Woodin make a mistake of this magnitude? Why did so many knowledgeable numismatists examine these two coins over the years without raising the questions about strike and weight, which are so obvious using hindsight? Next, why was there 4 percent silver in this alloy being tested? I would like to speculate on this one. In the era in which this coin was made, those responsible for our money were still operating under the quaint nineteenth-century notion that money should have value. They did not realize that one could rely solely on the integrity of our elected officials to make sure that money retained its full value. They believed that you needed precious metal content in money to avoid inflation. It was such a cynical age. If the mint were considering a smaller one-cent piece to replace the large coppers which most of us love, 4 percent silver content would be just about what was needed to ensure that the new coins would have one cent worth of the precious metal.

A final question that cores to mind has to do with the metallic content traditionally ascribed to other nineteenth-century pattern coins. How many others have actually been tested? How many of them may have metallic content different from that which is listed in the current reference works?

The search for knowledge isn't over.

R. TETTENHORST



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a blind pig will pick up a ~~macorn~~ <sup>third</sup> once in a while." A ~~second~~ opinion

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~~ex~~ ¶ The search for knowledge isn't over.



May 21, 1990

FRANK WILKINSON

Enclosed is a draft of Part II of  
my article on the 1854 copper-nickel  
pattern half cent, as submitted  
to Penny-Wise.

You already know the substance,  
of course.

~~Tell~~

FROM THE DESK OF R. TETTENHORST

R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

May 21, 1990

Mr. Q. David Bowers  
Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc.  
Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

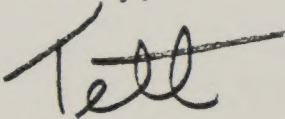
Dear Dave:

Enclosed is a draft of Part II of my article on the 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent (Norweb lot #134) as submitted to Penny-Wise.

Your associate, Andy Pollock, may be interested in the actual metallic content of this coin. It turns out to be a pattern, but with no nickel. It is approximately 80 percent copper, 16 percent tin, and 4 percent silver.

Also, question #4 in the enclosed article is one that he may want to think about. I would be interested in any reaction that you and he have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tettenhorst', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R. Tettenhorst

m

Enclosure



# BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.



May 3, 1990

Mr. Bernard Edison  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
501 North Broadway, Box 14020  
St. Louis, MO 63178

Box 1224  
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5095  
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

Dear Bernard:

Thank you for your letter. Although you did not enclose the article you mentioned, I do have it on hand and will pass it along to Andy Pollock. The pattern project is coming along nicely, and next week Andy is headed for the Smithsonian to weigh, study the die alignment of, and otherwise evaluate the patterns in their holdings.

I am glad you enjoyed the New England delicacies!

Best personal regards,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/mkv

Copy to:  
Andy Pollock

*oops! sorry.  
mb.*

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

bc:EPN.

**EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.**

501 NORTH BROADWAY, P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO 63178

BERNARD EDISON

April 30, 1990

Mr. Q. David Bowers  
Bowers and Merena Galleries, Inc.  
Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Dear Dave:

Thanks very much for the maple syrup, aged cheddar, and preserves. Those New England products have a character and quality all their own.

Eric received a letter from a member of your staff, Andrew Pollock, with respect to patterns and die trial pieces. I am enclosing an article that I wrote for the March 1990 issue of Penny-Wise on the subject of the 1854 half cent, supposedly a pattern, which I bought in your Norweb Sale. It may be of interest to Mr. Pollock. The follow-up article will appear in the next issue of Penny-Wise.

Incidentally, the article is written under my nom de plume of R. Tettenhorst. Please keep extremely confidential the connection of the name Edison with that of Mr. Tettenhorst.

With further respect to trial pieces, I have two 1795 half cents in my collection which might be of interest to Mr. Pollock. One was struck on a planchet cut from a copper trial piece for a 1794 half dollar. The other was struck on a planchet cut from a trial piece for a 1795 half dollar. Both are in well-worn condition, but there is still enough detail of the undertype visible to make its identification possible.

Thanks again for the New England edibles, which my family and I have already enjoyed.

Sincerely,

Bernard Edison

mb

Enclosure



# BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.



April 18, 1990

BOX 1224  
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5095  
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

Mr. Bernard Edison  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
501 North Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63178

Dear Bernard,

Our friend Tim Westman, who runs Westman's Weathered Barn, purveyors of New Hampshire and Vermont food products, advises me that the 1990 crop of maple syrup, just gathered, is particularly fine this year. Under separate cover I am having him send you a sample of this, together with some other "goodies" which I know you will enjoy.

All good wishes to you from all of us here at Bowers and Merena Galleries.

Sincerely yours,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/dw

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

# AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND

February 22, 1990

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
C/O Edison Brothers Stores Inc.  
501 N. Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63102

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 13, and for the inventory of patterns in your collection.

We are very interested in the metrology of the different issues of patterns and intend to report as fully on this aspect of the series as we can. The problem that we face is that the amount of information available in auction catalogues and other published sources is for the most part very scanty. Data pertaining to weights, die alignments, and diameters of the pieces in your collection would be very welcome.

We expect to devote a separate section of our book to die trial pieces and off-metal Proofs, and thus we would be delighted to have information on your 1913 Indian Head 5¢ Trial piece, and on the set of aluminum trial pieces once owned by Secretary McCulloch.

I am presently spending much of my research time investigating die varieties in the pattern series. I'll be forwarding information to you on these once I've completed my study. I can say at present that I am aware of two or more die varieties of each of the following: J-206, 208, 235, 298, 300, 666, 1550, all of which are in your collection.

We appreciate the interest that you have shown in the pattern reference book project, and will keep you updated on the progress on the work until the reference book is complete. Any comments, suggestions, and additional information that you can supply will be highly valued.

Sincerely yours,

*Andrew W. Pollock, III*

Andrew W. Pollock, III  
Staff Numismatist  
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

AWP/c11

Reminder: You may want to offer him the information on the 50¢ die trial pieces that you have which were cut down and made into half cents. Also mention the one that Don Partrick has.

mb  
3/20/90

FOL 4-23

w/DB. letter  
of 1/20/90

*Your friends in the rare coin business*



c/f 1854  
home

**EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.**

501 NORTH BROADWAY, P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO 63178

BERNARD EDISON

May 22, 1990

Mr. Jerry Cohen  
Jerry Cohen Corporation  
9465 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 519  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

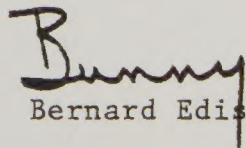
Dear Jerry:

Attached are copies of the two articles I wrote for Penny-Wise regarding the 1854 pattern half cent, J-155.

I have looked at my records on the 1809 over 06. This variety is very rare in true uncirculated condition. Most of the references indicate that there are only four or five known in that grade, although there are apparently several dozen in AU. I have a specimen that I paid \$500 for at the Spence Sale in March of 1975. As far as I can recall, this was four or five times the price for a common variety uncirculated 1809, and was a bit more than the price for which the proof half cents of the 1830s and 1850s were selling for at that time.

Thank you very much for representing me at the Manuscript Society Sale.

Sincerely,

  
Bernard Edison

mb

Enclosures

## The 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half Cent - Does It Exist?

### Introduction

There are three purposes to this article. The first is to describe the pleasure of an experience in numismatic research that extended over approximately fifteen years. The second purpose is to demonstrate that almost any collector with enough patience and enthusiasm can engage in numismatic research, even though he may not be one of EAC's more experienced and scholarly members. The third purpose is to disclose the answer to the question as to whether the 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent exists.

The presentation will be in three parts, of which this article is the first. It will tell how the question arose and describe the search for the answer. The second part will be a visual and oral presentation at the Forum during EAC's 1990 Convention in Orlando, where the coin will be displayed and the question will be answered. The third part will be a follow-up article on the subject which will be submitted to Penny-Wise.

### A Brief Review of the History of the 1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern Half Cent

The first published listing of the 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent was in the Adams and Woodin book entitled United States Pattern, Trial, and Experimental Pieces, published in 1913. The coin was listed as Adams-Woodin number 192 and described as "unique." In 1954 a second specimen appeared for the first time in the Anderson-Dupont sale, lot 1155. The variety was listed in Judd's United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces (1959) and given the number 155. The information in Judd is merely a restatement of what appeared in Adams-Woodin, with the addition of the second specimen. Similar references were in Empire Coin Company's United States Half Cents (1962); in the first edition of Roger Cohen's American Half Cents (1971); and in Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Proof Coins (1977). By the time of the publication of Cohen's second edition (1982) and Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents (1983), I had brought the question as to the existence of the coin to the attention of those authors. It is discussed on page 123 of Cohen and page 451 of Breen. However, the seventh edition of Judd, revised by Kosoff in 1982, still listed J155 as "two known."



## The Spence Sale and Its Consequences

The Dupont specimen reappeared as lot 880 in the Spence sale on March 15, 1975, exactly fifteen years before the date of this issue of Penny-Wise. I examined it carefully before the sale and then bought it for \$1,700, a price approximately four times that of a regular late date copper proof, and about the same price as the 1856 copper-nickel pattern in the same sale. The price was less than I had expected, because twenty years earlier, in the Anderson-Dupont sale, the same coin had sold for \$350, which was about eight times the current price for a late date proof, and four times the price of an 1856 copper-nickel pattern.

The coin seemed perfectly satisfactory to me. It had a golden color well within the normal range of naturally toned examples of the 1856 copper-nickel pattern half cent. In fact, there was a slight edge nick which almost served the function of a chop mark. Inside the nick the coin was also an appropriate brassy color. Moreover, the coin was accompanied by the envelope from the Dupont sale.

When I got the coin home, however, something vaguely troubled me about it. There was something not quite as good as it ought to be, but I couldn't figure out what. Eventually, it dawned on me that it was too good. The coin was simply too well struck up. It was fully struck on both the obverse and reverse, particularly the denticles.

To understand the significance of this, one has to realize that the 1856 copper-nickel half cent pattern never comes fully struck up. I had unsuccessfully searched for years for a fully struck example. Each one I had seen or heard of had significant areas of flatness in the hair and on several leaves, plus a consistently mushy area lacking details in many of the denticles. The illustrations on pages 456 and 457 of Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents, and those below in this article, clearly show that. The explanation always given was that the nickel was a harder metal than copper, and that the coinage presses in the Mint used for striking copper coins lacked sufficient pressure to fully bring up the details onto the faces of the tougher copper-nickel planchet. Yet, here was this 1854 specimen struck two years earlier, supposedly from the same material, without a trace of flatness. Why? Perhaps since only two of the 1854 patterns



were made, a special setting was made in the coinage press to make sure that the details were sharp. But, at the same time, there was now uncertainty as to whether these pieces were made of copper-nickel.

Next, I considered the weights of the respective coins, and the doubts multiplied. The normal copper half cents of the 1850s weighed about 84 grains. I had not seen specimens that varied significantly from this standard. The 1856 copper-nickel patterns weighed consistently in the range of 70 to 72 grains. This 1854 pattern was listed in the Anderson-Dupont catalogue as weighing 84 grains, and the comment was repeated in the Spence sale catalogue. Quickly, I popped my new acquisition on the scale, and the result was an unambiguous 84.1 grains. Uh, oh, trouble in River City!

Not knowing precisely what to do next, I consulted a friend and neighbor, the noted numismatist, Eric P. Newman. He had no explanation for the differences in strike and weight between this 1854 and the 1856 patterns, if they were made of the same metal. He offered to send the coin to a friend in the chemistry laboratory at Washington University in St. Louis for an X-ray spectroscope, which he said would determine clearly what the metallic content was without damaging the coin.

We sent the coin off, together with a regular copper 1854 proof, a copper 1856 proof, and a copper-nickel 1856 pattern.

When the results came back, they were clear. The Dupont-Spence coin, except for traces of impurities, was all copper, just as were the 1854 and 1856 regular metal proofs. The 1856 copper-nickel pattern showed a clear presence of around 10 percent nickel.

Naturally, my feelings were mixed. I had made an interesting discovery, but at the price of realizing that I did not have the rare coin I thought I had purchased. I returned the coin to Stack's with a copy of the chemical analysis. I received back a prompt refund along with a gracious letter of regret.

Next, of course, my thoughts turned to the other specimen. The Adams-Woodin piece now had the adjective "unique" restored to it. But, how sure was



I that it was made of copper-nickel? Perhaps it was also an unusually toned brassy looking regular copper proof. So began The Search.

#### The Search for Brown October

First, I looked to see if I could find a picture of the Adams-Woodin coin, which might show whether it was fully struck or not. No luck. Nor could I find any reference to its weight. Then I asked people who might have seen the coin if they remembered whether or not it was fully struck. Actually, no one recalled ever having seen the coin, since it had disappeared from view many years earlier.

Eventually, I learned that the Adams-Woodin specimen had reappeared in the Farouk sale as part of lot 1750, combined with an 1855 copper \$10 U.S. pattern. The two-coin lot sold for thirty Egyptian Pounds, or around \$90.

The next bit of information that I received was that it had been bought at the Farouk sale by a Florida dealer named Randall. My search took on a new direction.

Some interesting information and lively anecdotes about Mr. Randall surfaced. Unfortunately, included in the information was that he was deceased, as was Mrs. Randall. No one had the slightest clue as to who might have been a customer of his for a coin such as an 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent.

A gnawing worry invaded my thoughts. Suppose that the coin was, as I believed possible, only a regular copper 1854 half cent. But, suppose further that it had become somehow separated from its pedigree, so that there was nothing to link this ordinary half cent with its distinguished history. We would then be forever deprived of the opportunity to establish conclusively that the 1854 copper-nickel pattern did not exist. It would retain forever the theoretical possibility of reemergence and thus sink into that dismal abyss of unresolved and unresolvable questions. (Urgent

request -- All of you who own important or pedigreed coins, please keep the pedigrees with the coins for the benefit of future investigators.)

Years passed. More years. Every so often I would meet someone I thought might possibly know the location of the coin. But when I asked, no one had even a hunch.

#### Eureka! The Norweb Sale

Suddenly, one day in early 1987 the phone rang. It was Frank Wilkinson. "You know the half cents in the Norweb collection are going to be sold by Bowers and Merena in a few months, don't you?" he asked. "Yes," I replied, "I am really looking forward to it." "There is a coin in there that I think you have been looking for," said Frank mischievously. When he told me it was the Farouk specimen of the 1854 copper-nickel pattern, I literally jumped out of my chair. Frank further told me that Del Bland had seen the coin and considered it to be a regular 1854 copper half cent.

As soon as the coins were available for inspection, I rushed to see them. There were, of course, many fabulous half cents. However, the star for me was lot 134, something that I believed to be common - namely an ordinary copper 1854 half cent. Almost from across the room I could see that it was fully struck up. The color was within the normal range of natural toning, and the weight was given as 83.4 grains, approximately the standard of the regular issue copper half cents.

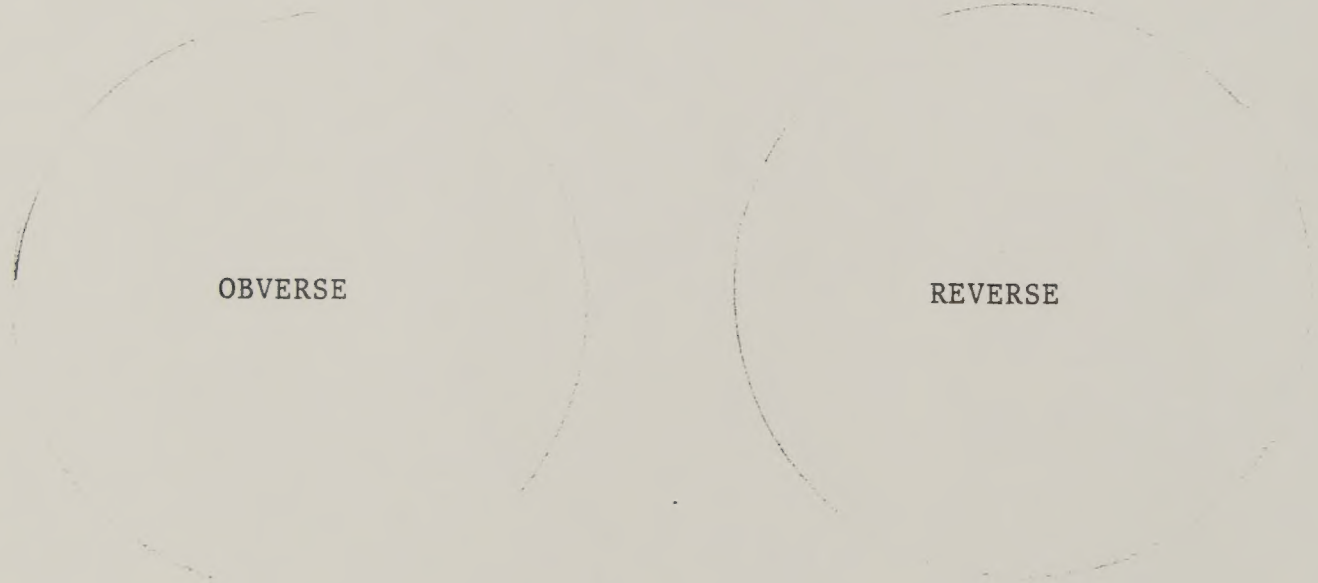
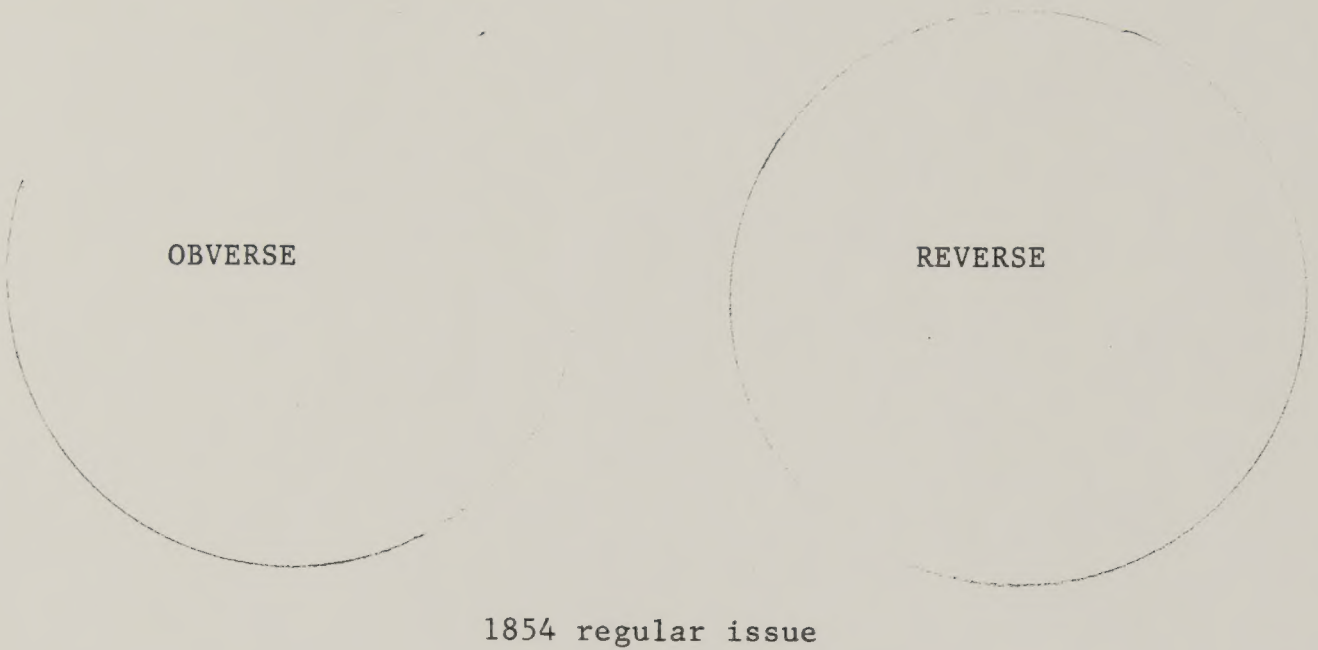
Eureka! Eureka! The undiscovery of a variety! The description in the catalogue gave a fair recital of the doubts concerning the metallic content of the coin, repeating Breen's comments at length. However, no actual analysis had been made.

Apparently, most others, but not everyone, shared my view that the coin was merely a regular copper one. I bought it for \$1,980. I considered that its actual value, except for its historical interest, was in the range of \$100. The excess I regarded as a philanthropic contribution to further the study of numismatics. Again, with the assistance of Eric Newman, the



coin was sent off for non-destructive metal analysis, this time to the ANA certification service which secured the cooperation of the personnel at Colorado College.

Shown below are pictures of the Woodin-Farouk-Norweb specimen, along with a regular uncirculated 1854 copper half cent and an 1856 copper-nickel pattern.



1854 Copper-Nickel Pattern ??? Woodin-Farouk-Norweb



1856 Copper-Nickel Pattern

At the EAC convention in Orlando, I plan to display these coins.

At the Forum I will present the results of the metallic analysis and make a few other comments about the pleasures of the hunt for numismatic information. Any EAC member who will not be in Orlando is invited to study the evidence presented above and send me a vote as to whether the coin is a regular copper half cent, copper-nickel pattern, or something else. If you believe it is not a copper-nickel pattern, I would welcome any speculation as to how an otherwise careful numismatist such as Mr. Woodin could have made such a mistake. Please write me at P.O. Box 14020, St. Louis, MO 63178. Those who are going to be in Orlando will have an opportunity to see the coin before the Forum and cast a vote after direct inspection.

Also, for those not going to Orlando, I plan to submit my remarks at the Forum for publication in Penny-Wise.

R. TETTENHORST  
February 26, 1990



May 23, 1990

Dear Tett —

Thanks for the column article —  
and for all your efforts in preparing  
for Orlando. It was a most  
interesting presentation.

I appreciate your speaking to  
Eric Newman, too.

Sincerely,  
Harry.

c/f ✓ 1854  
1992 Conv.

R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

May 24, 1990

Mr. Mike Packard  
4905 Village Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Mike:

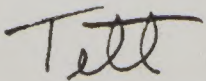
Thanks for your nice note about the Orlando convention. I really appreciate your willingness to take the responsibility for the 1992 exhibits.

I asked Eric Newman, on behalf of Harry Salyards, if he would make a talk at the 1992 convention on Colonial coppers. He said that he would. I imagine that Eric would also be willing to have an exhibit if we ask him to do so. If he agrees, it would certainly be something classy.

It was a pleasure having Bill Weber here. By all means the welcome mat is out any time you want to come by.

It is sad to hear about Roger's condition. Please let me know any time you think there is something that I could do to be of good cheer to him and Debbie. I will probably call him over this coming weekend.

Sincerely,



R. Tettenhorst

m



4905 Village Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
(703) 273-1304

May 17, 1990

R. Tettenhorst  
P.O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Tet,

Just a brief note to say thank you on behalf of the club and myself for exhibiting your 1854 and 1856 half cents at the Orlando Convention. They were quite something to see and the metallic composition of the 1854 pattern does raise a lot of interesting questions as to why that composition was used. Roger assures me that the answer probably lies buried somewhere in the National Archives, but he doesn't have a good idea of where to start looking.

Speaking of Roger, he is back in the hospital. I went to see him last night and we had a two hour visit. He seemed to be doing pretty well--was lucid and able to sit up--but he admits that he has good days and bad days and yesterday was a good day. I presented him with the EAC Award and he seemed genuinely pleased to be the recipient. I truly think it means a lot to him to have his efforts recognized. He asked that I pass his thanks along to everyone for their kind thoughts and prayers.

I want to assure you that I am pleased to be asked to arrange the exhibits for the 1992 convention. 1992 is the club's 25th anniversary, you know, so we will have to plan something extra special. I will let you know as I put some ideas together.

I hope you had a nice visit with Bill Weber. I know he appreciated a place to stop and view the coppers on his trip back to California. I would like to partake of that copper oasis one day too. Take care.

Sincerely,

*Nike*

R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

May 29, 1989

Dear Harry,

Because I am rather slow at bringing projects to completion, I like to start them well ahead of schedule. Therefore, I am writing you to get your reaction to a proposed pair of articles for the March 1990 and May 1990 issues of Penny-Wise.

The basic question is whether the 1854 copper-nickel pattern half cent exists or not. This coin is listed as no 192 in Adams-Woodin (1913) and 155 in Judd. Woodin owned the coin. I have been trying to solve the mystery since the Spence Sale of 1975, where I bought a supposed second specimen, only to discover that it was a regular proof 1854 copper half cent. The issue and my search is described in Green's half cent book on page 451.



The mystery has now been solved.  
Because of my fruitless 15 yr. search,  
I had feared the Woodin coin lost,  
after the dispersal of the Farouk coins.  
Imagine my joy when it turned up  
in the Norweb Sale. I bought it there,  
and have had it tested.

It seems to me that EAC is the most  
appropriate audience to which to present  
the results for the first time. What I  
would propose is the following sequence:

1) In the March 1990 issue<sup>of PW</sup>, describe  
the issue<sup>as to the coin</sup>, my search, and the fact that  
the coin had reappeared in the Norweb Sale.  
Picture the coin, announce that the results  
would be disclosed at the EAC Educational  
Forum, and then reprinted in the May, 1990  
issue. Invite members to vote as to what they  
believe the coin to be.

2) At the EAC Convention in Orlando,  
exhibit the coin, and again invite votes as  
to what it is.

3) At the Forum, disclose the votes and  
the actual results of the tests on the coin.

4) Reprint the results of the tests, and  
votes, and comment in the May issue. (Do you



R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

plan to delay the May 1990 issue because of the May date of the Convention?)

It seems to me that this step process might give some members more of a feeling of actually participating in the search and the research. It might stimulate in a few minds even an interest in numismatic research. At least, that would be the purpose of the proposed procedure.

My tentative title is "The Undiscovery of a Variety ???". I would estimate the lengths of the articles, including pictures, as about 4 pages for the first and 2 pages for the second.

On our I perhaps getting too carried away? What is your editorial judgement? Would this be fun for the members, or is it too much fuss about a single coin? Please be candid.

Regards,

Tett



# AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.



BOX 1224  
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5095  
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

May 29, 1990

Mr. Bernard Edison  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
501 North Broadway  
Box 14020  
Saint Louis, MO 63178

Dear Mr. Edison:

Your report on the 1854 half cent in oroide is most welcome. Based on your earlier article in Penny Wise, the results of the analysis were rather unexpected, but certainly extremely interesting. Your report is the only solid information pertaining to the composition of oroide alloy that has come to my attention.

Best wishes,

Andrew W. Pollock, III  
Staff Numismatist  
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

AWP/kdw

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

# AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.



May 29, 1990

Box 1224  
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5095  
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Mr. Bernard Edison  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
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Dear Mr. Edison:

Your report on the 1854 half cent in oroide is most welcome. Based on your earlier article in Penny Wise, the results of the analysis were rather unexpected, but certainly extremely interesting. Your report is the only solid information pertaining to the composition of oroide alloy that has come to my attention.

Best wishes,

Andrew W. Pollock, III  
Staff Numismatist  
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

AWP/kdw

*Your friends in the rare coin business*



WESLEY A. RUSSELL, II, D. D. S.  
BARBARA A. RUSSELL, D. D. S.  
403 SOUTH CENTER  
SHELBYNA, MISSOURI 63468  
TELEPHONE (314) 588-4322

3/29/90

Dear Mr. Tettenhorst,

I read your article in the most recent issue of "Penny Wise" and found it most interesting. I am sorry but I have no <sup>good</sup> hypothesis as to why or how Mr. Woodin could have erred so greatly concerning the 1854 Half Cent in question. Perhaps he bought the coin with some other pattern coin from someone who told him that this was also a pattern. Without weighing the coin or subjecting it to spectroscopy, he may have just assumed the coin was what it was sold as. Even experts when they take something for granted, can be deceived. A case in point was the Dupont-Spence example you cited that Stacks sold you. Certainly the gentlemen at Stacks just took it for granted that the coin was a pattern. Anyway, from the evidence produced by your detective skills, I vote that the 1854 you purchased for \$1980 is as you imply a regular copper half cent.

I too, am a Half Cent collector of sorts. I only own 38 varieties at this time. I have been as selective as my wallet will allow however in obtaining these 38 coins. I try to buy only coins with nice surfaces and no problems. Nearly all of the coins are in the XF-AU range except for the tougher ones which are in the F-VF range.

WESLEY A. RUSSELL, II, D. D. S.

BARBARA A. RUSSELL, D. D. S.

403 SOUTH CENTER

SHELBYNA, MISSOURI 63468

TELEPHONE (314) 588-4322

You probably don't remember me, but I visited with you for a few minutes at the "Half Cent Happening" at last year's E.A.C. I know I can never put together a collection even close to yours, so it was especially enjoyable for me to examine some of your half cents up close at the Happening.

I don't know if you ever have duplicates that you wish to part with, but if so, I hope that you would consider me as a person who would be interested in them. I can promise you that the coins would stay in Missouri for at least another generation. (I am 37 years old) I try to buy coins that I will never need or want to upgrade. A friend of mine in Washington, Del Bland, has taught me a lot about grading Half Cents (as well as large cents) and has found a lot of my coins at different shows for me. As you know however, it is not very easy to find choice problem free copper that is correctly graded.

I hope I haven't bored you with this long letter. Have a good time in Orlando as I won't be able to go this year.

Sincerely,  
Wes Russell  
E.A.C. #2460



R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

May 31, 1990

Dr. Wesley A. Russell, II  
403 South Center  
Shelbina, MO 63468

Dear Wes:

Thanks very much for your nice note about the Penny-Wise article. Since you were kind enough to write me, I thought you would appreciate having the attached advance copy of the second article, which I have submitted for publication in the next issue of Penny-Wise. You will probably be as surprised as I was at what the tests show.

I do remember our brief conversation at the "Half Cent Happening" in Cincinnati. I do not have any duplicates for sale. However, both Chris McCawley and Tom Reynolds have very carefully described half cents in their regular price list mailing. My experience with both of them has been excellent. If you are not on their mailing lists, you should be. For higher grade (and higher-priced coins), Jim McGuigan is excellent.

Good luck with your collection. We are planning the 1992 EAC meeting in St. Louis, so I hope to see you then if not before.

Sincerely,

R. Tettenhorst

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Enclosure

R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

May 31, 1990

Mr. Kenneth R. Seachman  
Ken's Coin Shop  
927 E. Market Street  
York, PA 17403

Dear Ken:

Thanks for your note about the 1854 Penny-Wise article. Since you were kind enough to write me, I thought you would appreciate having the attached advance copy of the second article, which I have submitted for publication in the next issue of Penny-Wise. You will probably be as surprised as I was at what the tests show.

Your half cent collection is remarkably complete. The varieties you are missing seldom come up except in major auctions. In fact, I think that several of the 1794 B's and the 180~~8~~ C1 have never appeared for sale in any auction.

Sincerely,

R. Tettenhorst

m

Enclosure



# Ken's Coin Shop

Kenneth R. Seachman

**RARE COINS BOUGHT, SOLD & TRADED**

Phone: (717) 854 - 9339 or 846-5967

927 E. MARKET STREET

YORK, Pa. 17403

22 MARCH 1990

Dear Mr. Tetterhorst:

Having read your article in "PENNY-WISE", concerning the 1854 COPPER NICKEL HALF CENT, I feel (like I think you do) that it does not exist. The article is of great interest to me since I recently purchased the coin pictured in Cohen's (2<sup>nd</sup> EDITION) on page 123.

I still need a few half cents to complete my collection. Excluding the PROOFS, I need some of the 1794 B's, 1802 c1, 1804 c2, 1806 c3, 1808 c1, & 1831 c1.

Should you have, or know of, any of these available, I would appreciate hearing from you. Thank you.

Best regards,

Ken Seachman



April 17, 1990

Dear Mr. Tettenhorst,

Thanks for writing the article on the 1854 Copper-Nickel half cents in Penny-Wise. My name is Garry Apelian and my EAC # is 2686. I joined EAC in late 1986 and I wanted to write to you concerning my experience with Bowers and Merena last summer with an 1854 half cent.

Being a half cent collector I had seen in their summer Rare Coin Review of last year an 1854 B-2 half cent that they listed as AU-55, R-3 for \$199.00. Not knowing the exact variety or the history behind it I took out my Norweb catalogue and saw another 1854 B-2 that sold for around \$2000.00. Of course now I know that is your coin. Anyways I thought to myself what a bargain although I needed the variety for my collection and was going to buy it regardless. Of course I had expected the coin to be already sold but to my surprise it wasn't and they sent it out on approval to me.

I was pleased with the coin when I received it; the coin was a solid AU-55 even by EAC standards- I had Tom Reynolds confirm that for me and it had no problems. Now I had wondered if they had goofed on the pricing at Bowers & Merena. I called them up to talk about the coin and they connected me with Liz Arlin who not only didn't know anything about the coin but wouldn't even try to get some help on it from somebody else over there; I was really put off by her attitude. Finally after checking the Norweb catalogue herself she claimed that the coin follows "Walter's" description of the coin and that she could not help me with the price difference between the two coins but she felt that they were the exact same coins. Now I was even more confused.

Luckily Ed Masuoka came to the rescue. I had told him about the coin so he could put it on his half cent survey and he explained how you wanted the Norweb one and what you were hoping the coin actually was and explained that was the reason for the price difference. Also Rod Widok and Chris McCawley stated what Ed had said about my B-2 and that is the coin is a different die state than a C-1 and that is the reason it has the lump on top of the I. Anyways Chris has a B-2 right now on his price list in AU-55 for around \$350-\$400. My own feeling now is if there is an 1854 copper-nickel half cent it should weigh what the 1856 does. As far as my own experience goes most 1854's come pretty well struck and most 1856's don't unless we're talking about proofs. Anyways thank you for your story and I hope you find the copper nickel 1854. You're welcome to see my 1854 at any time. I won't be at the EAC convention but I could mail it to you.

Thank You very much,

*Garry Apelian*

Garry Apelian EAC #2686

910 Revere Road, Glenview, IL 60025



R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

May 31, 1990

Mr. Garry Apelian  
910 Revere Road  
Glenview, IL 60025

Dear Garry:

Thanks for your nice note about 1854 half cents. You have talked to some very knowledgeable people about your coin, and it certainly sounds as though you have the right explanation for it.

Sincerely,

R. Tettenhorst

m

William T. Jones  
P.O. Box 1314  
Boston, MA 02117

May 18, 1990

Dear Mr. Tettenhorst,

Enclosed are the slides of the 1795 C-6A and 1802 C-1 half cents which I photographed at the EAC convention. The 1802 slide is not quite as nice as I would have liked, and I tossed in an extra shot I did of a Mass. silver piece earlier in the evening to show a better example of my work. Next year, I will have my copy stand with me, and the photography will be easier and better.

I really enjoyed your lecture on the 1854 pattern half cent. Your conclusion that the copper, tin and silver alloy from which it was made was an experimental composition for the small cent is probably valid. The mint was experimenting with several different alternatives to the large cent during this period, and the strange alloy which you found in your half cent was probably one of their more radical creations. The copper-nickel alloy which was finally selected for the cent was chosen because of political pressure from nickel mine owner, Joseph Wharton, and because the mint officials felt that the thick, white cents looked like they were worth one cent. Later, when the smaller copper Civil War tokens received wide acceptance, the mint officials were able to convince Congress to authorize a similar piece for the cent in 1864. The bronze cents were cheaper to produce and easier to strike.

Soon after I arrived home from Florida, JJ Teaparty had an AU-50 1794 half dime for me. The piece is a Valentine 3A which is currently rated a high R-5. I have a strong interest in the early half dimes, and I am currently working on a 10 year project to assemble a date and major variety set, minus the 1802. My collection now lacks the 1797 15 star, the 1803 and the 1805. The beauty of this series is that the major competition comes from type collectors, and the premium for the better dates is not that great in many cases. In addition, very few people take note of the Valentine varieties, except for such items as the 1796 over 5, and this affords the numismatist with the opportunity to cherry pick some rarities. The down side is that all of these pieces are scarce and fairly expensive. For example, the 1800 V-1, which is the more common "LIBERTY" variety, is perhaps the most common variety in the series with a low R-3 rating. That places it about equal in rarity to the 1802 C-2 half cent !

Have a beautiful summer and a healthy and prosperous year. I will be looking forward to seeing you in Boston next April.

Sincerely,

*Bill Jones*



c/f home  
✓ 1854

R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

May 31, 1990

William T. Jones  
P. O. Box 1314  
Boston, MA 02117

Dear Bill:

Thanks for the slides. I enjoyed looking at them. Thanks also for the comments about the 1854 pattern and early half cents.

I look forward to seeing you next year in Boston.

Sincerely,

R. Tettenhorst

m

# AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.



BOX 1224  
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5095  
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

May 16, 1990

Mr Bernard Edison  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
501 North Broadway  
Box 14020  
St. Louis, MO 63178

Dear Mr. Edison:

Thank you for calling my attention to your excellent article on the 1854 "copper nickel" half cents in Penny Wise. I eagerly await your report concerning the composition of the Norweb specimen.

I am also very interested to learn that you own examples of J-17 and J-22. Pedigree information on these two pieces would be very useful to us.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew W. Pollock, III  
Staff Numismatist  
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

AWP/dtm

J-22 Ex Ruby I #196 ; then Superior U. of Wisc 10/77 lot #13  
Breen p. 152

J-17 Ex WKA 9/76 also Breen p. 152

both DAVY COLLECTION  
Know the location of the 3<sup>rd</sup> (only other J-17), but ...  
also mention Breen p. 152

both about VG

Your friends in the rare coin business



off 1854  
home

**EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.**

501 NORTH BROADWAY, P. O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO 63178

BERNARD EDISON

May 22, 1990

Mr. Andrew W. Pollock, III  
Staff Numismatist  
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.  
Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Dear Mr. Pollock:

Your letter arrived after I had sent the second chapter of the J-155 article to Dave Bowers. You have probably received it from him by now. In my letter to him, I suggested that he point out to you the question regarding spectroscopic testing of other patterns of that era. Do you know if these have been tested to confirm the metallic composition?

The J-17 that I have was purchased from a private individual in September of 1976. I do not know its prior pedigree. However, considering its worn condition (approximately VG), it may very well not have been identified a great deal earlier than that date. An examination of various editions of the Judd book could confirm this.

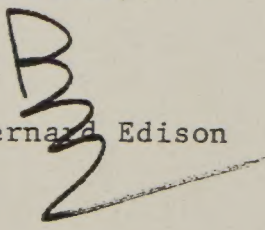
The J-22 is from the Ruby I Sale, lot 196. I purchased it in Superior's University of Wisconsin Sale in October of 1977, lot 133.

Both of these coins, as well as the other known example of J-17, are discussed in Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents on page 152. Walter had seen my specimens at the time that he wrote those comments.

Please remember that I am corresponding with you under the assumption that my identity is totally confidential.

I hope all of this has been of value to you.

Sincerely,

  
Bernard Edison

mb

# AUCTIONS BY BOWERS AND MERENA, INC.



BOX 1224  
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5095  
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

June 8, 1990

Mr. Bernard Edison  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
501 North Broadway  
P.O. Box 14020  
St. Louis, MO 63178

Dear Mr. Edison:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 22. The information on J-17 and J-22 has filled in the lacunae in my notes on these two varieties.

Not much research information pertaining to the elemental analysis on U.S. pattern cents of the 1850's has come to my attention. In the May 1984 issue of The Numismatist on page 961, there is a report describing the results of x-ray analysis of some patterns of the J-167 to 171 design type. Prior to analysis, it was thought that they were either J-170 or J-171, but the analysis ascertained that they were actually German silver containing approximately 75% copper, 12% nickel, and 13% zinc.

In the April 1986 issue of The Numismatist an article appeared discussing the findings of Halbert Carmichael and Craig A. Wilson who used x-ray fluorescence to examine the composition of 32 Liberty Head and Flying Eagle cent patterns of 1854 and 1855. Their findings revealed that some of the so-called "copper-nickel" pieces were actually German silver. Moreover, they determined that neither weight nor color can be safely used to distinguish between copper and bronze strikings.

Sincerely yours,

Andrew W. Pollock, III  
Staff Numismatist  
Auctions by Bowers and Merena, Inc.

AWP/kdw

*Your friends in the rare coin business*



# BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES, INC.

May 24, 1990

talk  
to  
EPN



BOX 1224  
WOLFEBORO, NH 03894  
(603) 569-5095  
Fax line: (603) 569-5319

Mr. R. Tettenhorst  
P.O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear "Tett":

Thank you for your letter of the 21st and the fascinating article. It might be interesting to reprint this article in our "Rare Coin Review" for the benefit of our readers, if this would be permissible. Just let me know. I have passed the letter along to Andy Pollock, who will answer you.

Although Andy Pollock has been researching weights, die alignments, etc., relatively little has been done in the way of actual metallic analysis. A lot of information in the Judd book with reference to copper patterns of the 1850s and silver content patterns of the 1870s is incorrect; the implication in the Judd book is that weight can be used to determine the differences, but in actual practice weights vary all over the place.

Best personal regards,

Q. David Bowers

QDB/mkv

Copy to:  
Andy Pollock

*Your friends in the rare coin business*

off home  
1854

R. TETTENHORST  
P. O. Box 14020  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63178

June 12, 1990

Mr. Q. David Bowers  
Bowers and Merena Galleries  
Box 1224  
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

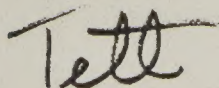
Dear Dave:

Thank you very much for your nice letter. I did also receive a letter from Andy Pollock, which contained some interesting information about the metallic composition of other patterns.

You certainly have my consent to reprint my article, either one or both, in "Rare Coin Review." However, since they have already been published in Penny-Wise, it seems to me that you will also need the consent of that publication. I do not know what the policy is with respect to copyrights, credits, etc. My suggestion is that you write directly to the editor of Penny-Wise, who is:

Dr. Harry Salyards  
606 N. Minnesota  
Hastings, NE 68901

Sincerely,



R. Tettenhorst

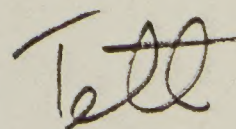
m

June 12, 1990

c: Dr. Harry Salyards

DR. HARRY SALYARDS

Harry, I think the attached correspondence is self-explanatory. You may hear directly from Dave Bowers on this.





I

The P.W. article  
The 1975 Spence Sale  
The Norweb Sale  
Weights

slides

II

The response

III

A. Conclusions:

1. Norweb is a pattern
2. But very different metal content
3. Anyone can do research - don't have to be one of the gurus.
4. It is a lot of fun
5. Just because something has been written down, perhaps very often doesn't always mean it is true.
6. <sup>Humility</sup> Just because you know something on a subject, don't think you know everything

B. Each answer leads to several questions:

1. How did Woodin make his mistake?
2. Why did so many other numismatists look at these coins and accept the attribution, not ask the questions about strike and weight?
3. Are there other pattern coins whose metallic content is, in fact, significantly different from that which has been handed down to us?



- Hello again, Patient Readers.
- When last we chatted, had sent waiting  
     gg 2 bits of info
- Received answer  
     Wow!

### Conclusions

- 1) ~~Too~~ Searching for names info great fun —  
     as much as coins. Met many  
     friendly — listened, expressed interest, encouraged
- 2) Anyone can do it. "Hind pig"
- 3) Just because written
- 4) Humility —
- 6) Every answer leads to new questions.
- 5) J155 is a pattern, but diff/ fantastic

### Questions:

- 1) How did Woodin ~~make~~ make his mistake?
- 2) Why did so many others...
- 3) Are there other patterns...?
- 4) Why tin and silver: as to tin: mint —  
     as to silver —

Appreciation to those who wrote and ~~asked~~ <sup>whose</sup> questions  
 provided further insights at EAC. FW for <sup>or comments</sup> the  
 photos.



WASHINGTON



UNIVERSITY

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

April 22, 1975

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil  
Clayton, Mo. 63105

Dear Eric,

I have completed the electron microprobe analysis of the proof 1854 half cent which you submitted to me for determination of the nickel content. The enclosed X-ray spectra include a comparison of the 1854 proof piece with a heavily circulated 1860 cent known to contain 12% nickel, an 1856 pattern half cent, an uncirculated 1854 half cent, and a recent 'nickel', known to contain 25% nickel. Of the five pieces only the uncirculated 1854 half cent and the proof 1854 half cent show no detectable nickel content. Other than a slight iron impurity, the proof 1854 half cent appears to be pure copper identical with the currency piece. The 1856 pattern half cent, the 1860 cent and the recent nickel all contain nickel in various amounts. Based on the 12% nickel assumed for the 1860 cent, your 1856 pattern piece contains between 8 and 10% nickel. A more exact value is obtainable but would require more time than was available when these analyses were run.

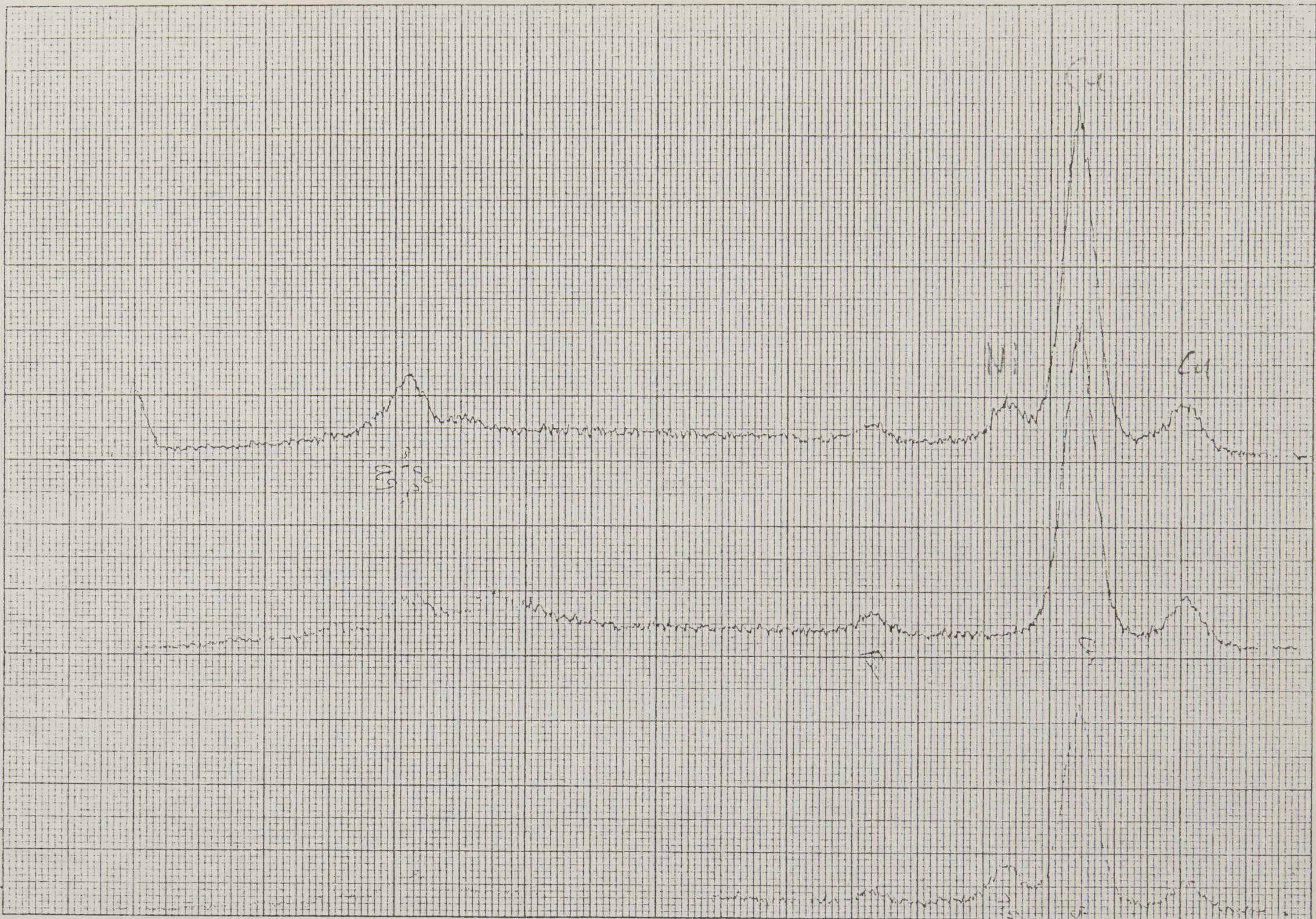
The piece you submitted definitely does not contain nickel and appears to have the same grade of copper used in the regular coinage of the year.

This analysis was carried out in collaboration with Dr. David Zimmerman, at the Center for Archeometry, Washington University.

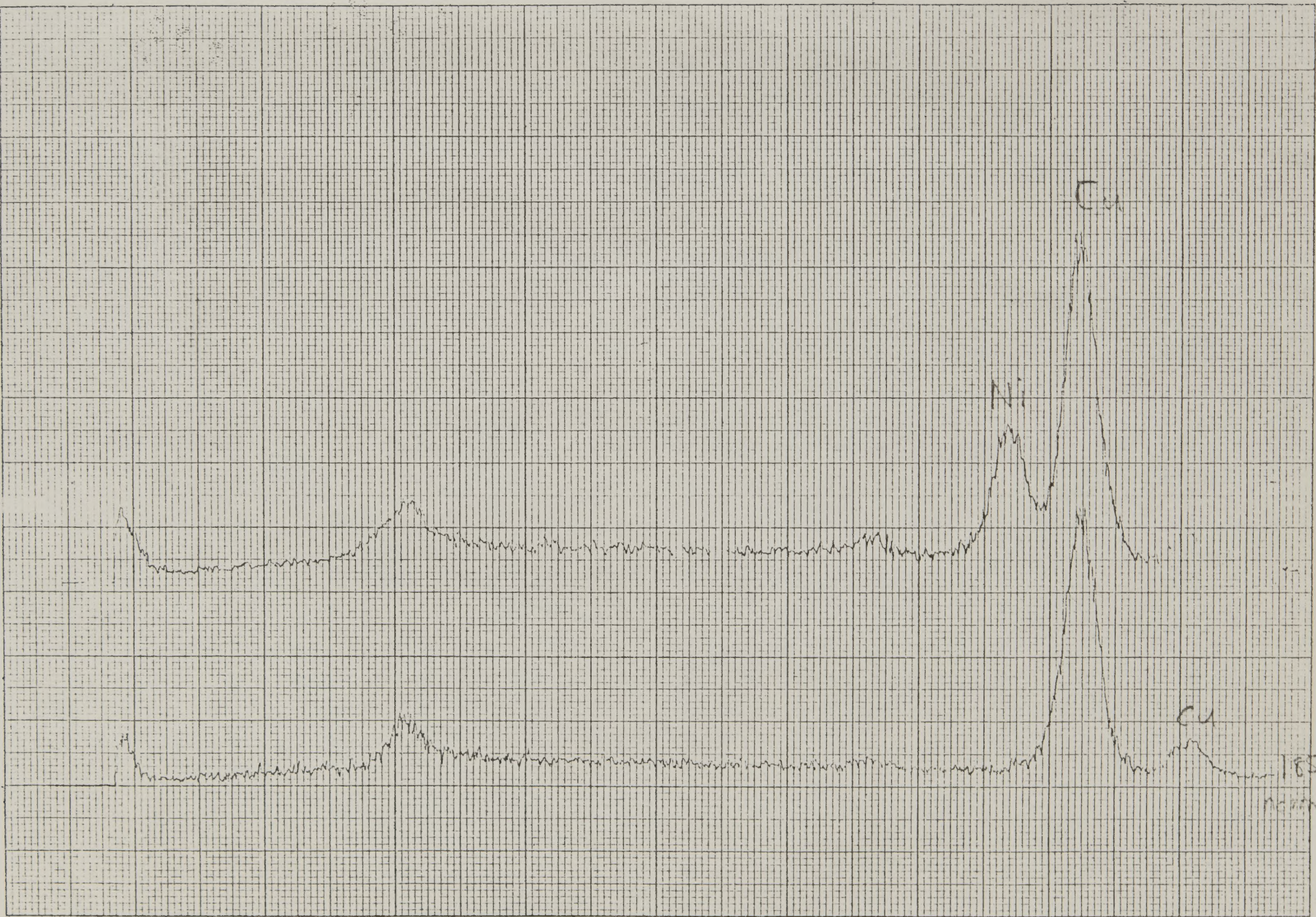
Sincerely yours,

Peter Gaspar  
Professor of Chemistry and  
Associate of the Center for Archeometry









4531  
normal



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 23, 1975

Mr. Bernard Edison  
30 Southmoor Drive  
Clayton, Missouri 63105

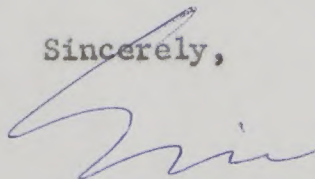
Dear Bernard:

We have examined the 1854 United States proof half cent alleged to be a copper nickel pattern and, in our opinion, it is a normal proof 1854 half cent. The coin was submitted to Peter Gaspar, Professor of Chemistry at Washington University, who with Dr. David Zimmerman at the Center for Archeometry at Washington University, conducted an electron microprobe analysis on the coin, along with various comparison pieces which we furnished and determined that aside from slight iron impurity the proof 1854 piece is of pure copper and contains no nickel.

The Washington University report is available for your examination if you wish it.

The piece submitted is returned herewith. We hope we have been helpful.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encl.



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri*

April 23, 1975

Mr. Bernard Edison  
30 Southmoor Drive  
Clayton, Missouri 63105

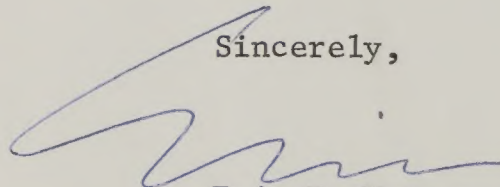
Dear Bernard:

We have examined the 1854 United States proof half cent alleged to be a copper-nickel pattern and, in our opinion, it is a normal proof 1854 half cent. The coin was submitted to Peter Gaspar, Professor of Chemistry at Washington University, who with Dr. David Zimmerman at the Center for Archeometry at Washington University, conducted an electron microprobe analysis on the coin, along with various comparison pieces which we furnished and determined that aside from slight iron impurity the proof 1854 piece is of pure copper and contains no nickel.

The Washington University report is available for your examination if you wish it.

The piece submitted is returned herewith. We hope we have been helpful.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:jah

Encl.

*Home*

April 24, 1975

REGISTERED MAIL

Mr. Ben Stack  
Stack's  
123 West 57th Street  
New York, New York 10019

Dear Ben:

Enclosed is the 1854 proof half-cent we talked about on the telephone.

I would appreciate it if you could perform a similar analysis and let me know if it confirms the results found by Professor Gaspar.

Thank you very much for your consideration on this.

Very sincerely,

Bernard Edison

rmt

enclosures - *encl & 3 pieces correspondence from Wash. Univ.*





NUMISMATISTS  
AUCTIONEERS • APPRAISERS

*Stack's*

COINS • MEDALS • PAPER MONEY

123 WEST 57TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 • TEL: 212/582-2580

May 16th, 1975

Mr. Bernard Edison  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Dear Bernard:

Thank you for your letter of the 14th, together with your check.

We, too, are sorry that the 1854 Half Cent was not the copper-nickel pattern; but in no way did we want you to retain something that was not correct.

With regard to your questions about the Half Cent, I would say that the only possible specimen would be the Farouk coin, but we do not know where it is. Whether the Farouk coin had ever been subjected to the test that you provided is not to our knowledge. If the only test made was specific gravity (which was the way they did it years ago), then there is a possibility that the Farouk coin may be doubtful. On the other hand, there still might be two copper-nickel specimens.

I plan to make a search of the various collectors of Half Cents known to us, and see if we can put some light on the subject. I will keep you informed of my findings.

Again, may I say it has been a pleasure being of service to you, and I look forward to our continued good friendship for many years to come.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

STACK'S

Harvey G. Stack



HGS:rz

# EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 501 NORTH BROADWAY MAIL: P.O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63178. PHONE: 314-331-6000 TELEX 797979

**BERNARD EDISON**  
CHAIRMAN FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 5, 1988

ERIC NEWMAN

Well, well, well! Our 1854 copper nickel is not copper nickel, as suspected. However, it is also not regular copper.

What are we to make of this Tin Lizzie?

→ The coins were not returned with this letter, but I assume they will follow.

BERNARD EDISON

mb

Attachment  
(original letter  
from AMA)



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 17, 1987

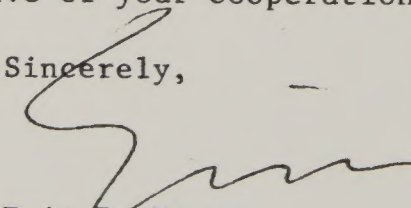
REGISTERED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. J. P. Martin  
ANACS  
818 North Cascade  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear J. P.:

It has long been a mystery as to whether there is a copper-nickel Half Cent dated 1854. It is listed in the U. S. pattern books. It has passed through the collections of King Farouk, Norweb, and has now been turned over by a collector to me for metallic analysis. I will not comment upon it because we would first like to see a study of the metallic content. The piece is enclosed. In order to put this material in a position to be written up, I am enclosing also for a metallic content study a regular copper 1854 Half Cent, a regular copper 1856 Half Cent and a copper nickel 1856 Half Cent pattern. These pieces are all in gorgeous condition. Would you be nice enough to arrange for them to be analyzed at two locations on each coin. I will be most appreciative of your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.

bc: ✓ Bernard Edison

B.E

1856  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent in  
Copper-nichel

There are some  
80% copper 20% nichel

some

90% copper 10% nichel

The one tested is 90%

Do we have one  
80% copper .

Eric



for B.E

December 23, 1987

MARIANNE

If a certified mail letter comes from the American Numismatic Association, Colorado Springs, Colorado, please telephone Mrs. Julie Hoppe at my office, 331-6541, and tell her it has arrived. She will then tell Bernard Edison it has arrived and he will pick it up at the house.

ERIC P. NEWMAN

# EDISON BROTHERS STORES INC.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 501 NORTH BROADWAY MAIL: P.O. BOX 14020, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63178. PHONE: 314-331-6000 TELEX 797979

BERNARD EDISON  
CHAIRMAN FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 5, 1988

ERIC NEWMAN

Well, well, well! Our 1854 copper nickel is not copper nickel, as suspected. However, it is also not regular copper.

What are we to make of this Tin Lizzie?

→ The coins were not returned with this letter, but I assume they will follow.

BERNARD EDISON

mb

Attachment  
(original letter  
from AMA)

CHANDLERS • BAKERS • LEEDS • BURTS • THE WILD PAIR • SACHA LONDON • LEASED SHOE DEPTS. • GUSSINI  
JEANS WEST • OAK TREE • SIZE 5-7-9 SHOPS • JOAN BARI • FASHION CONSPIRACY



# American Numismatic Association

WORLD'S LARGEST ORGANIZATION FOR COLLECTORS OF COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS & PAPER MONEY

CERTIFICATION SERVICE  
Written in our 96th Year

December 21, 1987

Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO. 63105

Dear Eric:

The X-Ray spectroscopy was performed on your coins yesterday, the results are as follows:

1854 1/2 Cent (suspected copper-nickel composition).

1. Area tested-Obverse above and to the right of the date:

A. Elements tested	Percentage of Element in Sample
1. Copper	79.96%
2. Tin	16.11%
3. Silver	3.88%
4. Nickel	.04% Probably a trace element

2. Area Tested-Miss Liberty's Profile

A. Results nearly the same as above (under 1% deviation).

1854 1/2 Cent (Regular Issue, Copper)

1. Area tested-Obverse, Above and to the right of the date.

A. Elements Tested	Percentage of Element in Sample
1. Copper	98.79%
2. Tin	.37%
3. Silver	.84%
4. Nickel	0%

2. Area Tested-Miss Liberty's Profile

A. Results nearly the same as above (under 1% deviation).

1856 1/2 Cent-Copper Nickel

1. Area tested-Obverse above and to the right of the date.

A. Elements Tested	Percentage of Element in Sample
1. Copper	91.10%
2. Tin	0%
3. Silver	0%
4. Nickel	8.90%

Eric P. Newman  
December 22, 1987  
Page-2-Continued

2. Area tested-Miss Liberty's Profile  
A. Results nearly the same as above(under 1% deviation)

1856 1/2<sup>cent</sup>-Copper ~~Nickel~~

1. Area tested-Obverse above and to the right of the date.  
A. Elements Tested                      Percentage of Element in Sample
- |           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| 1. Copper | 99%   |
| 2. Tin    | Trace |
| 3. Silver | Trace |
| 4. Nickel | Trace |

2. Area tested-Obverse-Miss Liberty's Profile  
B. Results nearly the same as above(under 1% deviation).

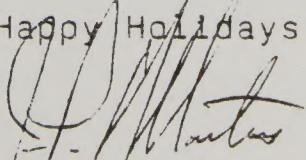
I am at a loss to explain the composition of the alloyed 1854 Half Cent, as I have seen no previous text mentioning this particular alloy. A suggestion that more tin was added "in an attempt to prevent the bronze pieces from tarnishing" can be found in a letter of James C. Booth, the melter and assayer of the mint.

This portion of the letter is paraphrased in Judd's Pattern Book under 1854.

The Accounting Department will bill you for the surface analysis.

I hope that I have been of useful service to you.

Happy Holidays

  
J.P. Martin  
ANACS Authenticator/Grader

JPM:lm



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 17, 1987

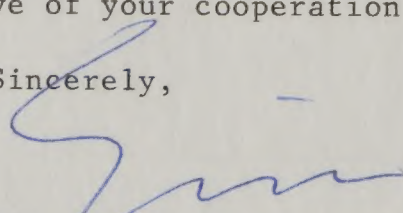
REGISTERED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. J. P. Martin  
ANACS  
818 North Cascade  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Dear J. P.:

It has long been a mystery as to whether there is a copper-nickel Half Cent dated 1854. It is listed in the U. S. pattern books. It has passed through the collections of King Farouk, Norweb, and has now been turned over by a collector to me for metallic analysis. I will not comment upon it because we would first like to see a study of the metallic content. The piece is enclosed. In order to put this material in a position to be written up, I am enclosing also for a metallic content study a regular copper 1854 Half Cent, a regular copper 1856 Half Cent and a copper nickel 1856 Half Cent pattern. These pieces are all in gorgeous condition. Would you be nice enough to arrange for them to be analyzed at two locations on each coin. I will be most appreciative of your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.

bc: ✓ Bernard Edison

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

January 15, 1988

Mr. J. P. Martin  
**ANACS**  
818 North Cascade Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279

Re: 1854 and 1856  $\frac{1}{2}$  Cent  
Metal Analysis

Dear J. P.:

I have been in South America and came home to find your letter of December 21, 1987 concerning the above. As you fully realize, you have found not only something of major importance, but a total surprise for everyone. Looks are deceiving enough, but fortunately the so-called 1854 "copper nickel" half cent has turned out to be of entirely different composition than the 1856 copper nickel half cent. Instead of being just copper, it has copper, tin and, amazingly, silver, etc., as a most unusual mixture.

Thank you for the Booth letter data. We will have to obtain the full record now that the coin supports the experiments in a new combination.

Naturally this matter will be written up and I will try to have the owner of the special piece publish it both in The Numismatist and in Pennywise simultaneously. Please keep the data confidential for that reason. You and ANACS will get appropriate credit, I believe.

I enclose a check for the \$100 cost of the test. When you send the four pieces back, I believe a value of \$10,000 ought to be enough even though more value is now apparent.

Please correct the typos in your letter as per the enclosed suggestions and send me a newly signed letter of the same date (perhaps two originals would be nice).

Thank you for your excellent cooperation and your sound observations.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.

bc: ✓ Bernard Edison



PROOF 1854



- 1118A **1854 Half Cent** previously "Copper-Nickel Pattern" Judd 155. Offered now as the actual Anderson-Dupont coin as a copper **Proof**, not the ephemeral copper nickel. Discussed at length by Breen in new Half Book as follows: "Adams-Woodin [1913] listed as their No. 192 a specimen struck in copper-nickel, there called "unique." The discovery coin passed from the William H. Woodin collection to Judson Brenner [who included it in his display at the ANS Exhibit, in 1914], later to F.C.C. Boyd, and then to King Farouk I, of Egypt Lot 1750. At the auction of the Palace Collections of Egypt in 1954, a Florida dealer named James P. Randall acquired the piece and later offered it for \$500.; listed as Encyclopedia 1378\*. I have not seen it, nor was the weight ever mentioned. One was offered in the "Anderson-Dupont" collection [Stack's, November 11-13, 1954], lot 1155, at \$350., to Dorothy Nelson, for the owner of the "TAD" large cents [Stack's, March 15, 1975], lot 880, at \$1,800.; this weighs 84 grains. A rim nick showed, apparently, copper-nickel metal underneath the toning. However, recent tests disclosed no nickel content. Its owner has vainly sought the Woodin-Boyd-Farouk-Randall specimen."
- This is surely the Anderson-Dupont coin **with** original envelope. The streaking on this coin is identical to the Stack's 1975 plate, and Eric Newman who examined the 1975 coins has verified that it is identical to the present offering. There is a rim nick, and there is streaky coloring on obverse and reverse that shows copper-nickel color. The weight is 84 grains. According to Walter Breen this was resold by Stack's in November, 1975. The consignor has many coins in this sale that are Stack's pieces from 1975, but not this envelope.
- If there is no nickel, Breen's thesis is correct and borne out by the cataloger and Eric Newman. We are offering this coin as a 1854 copper **Proof 63/63** not as a pattern. Certainly the most interesting coin and story in the entire sale.

LARGE CENTS

CHAIN CENT 1793



- 1119 **1793 Chain AMERI** type, S-1a. Literally our first cent, a great type coin. Even light brown color, typically the reverse much stronger than the obverse. Grade **Fine-12** obverse and **VF-30** reverse. Smooth flan, no porosity and only one minor edge ding. Worthy of a good home.

PLEASE NOTE

A 10% buyer's charge will be added to the total amount successful.



- 1120 **1793 chain AMERICA** type, S-3C. A damage free, superior specimen, slightly dark with somewhat porous surfaces. No damage worth noting except a vertical line depression in front of face, grades **Very Fine 20/20** and superior to probably 80% existent.

LIBERTY CAP 1793-1796

- 1121 **1795 plain edge** type, S-7B, medium brown, clean flan, **Fine 12/VG8**.

DRAPED BUST 1796-1807

- 1122 **1797**, S-136A scarce die rated as R-4. Broadmilling on obverse and reverse but about 5% off center, **VG 10/10**.
- 1123 **1803** Small date, small fraction S-255. Nice even chocolate brown, no problems. **VF 30/30**.
- 1124 Group of two: **1805** S-267 **Fine 12/12** honest wear; **1811** normal dark S-287 evenly worn **VG 8/8**. (Total: 2 pieces.)



- 1125 **1807/6** Large overdate S-273. Popular as one of the most obvious overdates. Even medium brown, no problems. **VF 30/30**.

CLASSIC HEAD 1808-1814

- 1126 **1809**, S-280 **VF 20/20**. The scarcest date of this type. Even medium brown, no problems, except for a couple of short parallel old lines from top head to border. Trace rust on reverse.
- 1127 **1809** S-280 in **Fine 12/12**, almost F-15. Medium brown, little wear consistent with grade and desirable.
- 1128 **1811/10** S-286 **VG 10/10**. Another obvious overdate and second rarest of classic heads. Even wear.



- 1129 **1811** Perfect Date, S-287, **VF 20/20**. A most superior specimen, but somewhat weakly struck on left quarter both on obverse and reverse. Flan is apparently thinner in this area.





One Market Plaza  
26th Floor, Steuart Street Tower  
San Francisco, California 94105  
(415) 777-5529 • TOLL FREE 800-227-5676  
In Calif. 800-652-1250

INVOICE N<sup>o</sup> 5311

DATE February 5, 1985

SALESMAN House

TERMS NA

CUSTOMER NO. 27091

BILL TO: Eric P. Newman  
Edison Bros Stores, INC.  
400 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis, Mo.

Inventory No.	Description	Grade	Price
N2777/23	1854 C-N half cent, Ex. Anderson-Dupont Lot 1155 (1954). In hands of present owner for over 20 years! Value probably either \$500 or \$10,000 depending on metal content evaluation. Insure on return based on findings.  G. Fuld	Auction	Item
	Sales Tax		
		TOTAL	



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

February 7, 1985

Mr. George Fuld  
Kagins  
1 Market Plaza, 26th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear George:

Thank you very much for sending the proof 1854 Half Cent to me.

This coin was examined by me in 1975 and I determined that it was not copper nickel. Whoever you said had owned it for 20 years must have forgotten that it was auctioned as part of the Dr. Spence collection, Lot #880, by Stacks on March 15, 1975, and was returned by the purchaser because it was not copper nickel. I remember the small nick in the edge opposite the E of UNITED. Your consignor may have gotten it back from Stacks, but should have been aware that it was not copper nickel.

The coin is being returned herewith, as well as the Anderson Dupont envelope, and the literature you were nice enough to send. The literature indicates the Spence matter. We are glad you thought of us in St. Louis.

Kindest regards,

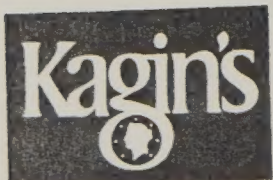
  
Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.

cc: ✓ Bernard Edison

Dr. GEORGE J. FULD  
SENIOR NUMISMATIST



KAGIN'S NUMISMATIC  
INVESTMENT CORPORATION

ONE MARKET PLAZA  
26th FLOOR  
STUART STREET TOWER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105  
(415) 777-5529 • 800 227-5676  
IN CALIF. 800 652-4467

*Sold as regular  
copper proof "with  
story" as lot 1118A  
Mar 1985  
3250*

123 West 57th Street  
New York, N. Y.

*Stamps*

A63

1155

ANDERSON DUPONT  
PART II

AUCTION SALE

November 11, 12, 13, 1954



Right arrowpoint practically touches border; shield point above r. base of 1; left base of 1 about over center of dentil. Rev. Faint die file marks above ER in AMERICA. Faint die scratches or the like joining QU (visible in loop of Q), through C to final A and within blank spaces under wings, almost vertically.

(1) Smithsonian, dies not checked, probably this variety. (2) The former Jerome Kern coin, lot 1445, possibly same as one of the ancient records following. (3) R. F. Batchelder to Don Jensen in four figures privately at the 1966 ANA convention; this piece was authenticated by me, later resold in LM 6/68:291. It has been drastically cleaned. Compare (a) Cleneay: 1417, (b) Winsor: 636, (c) Parmelee: 1235 — Woodin — Newcomer — Green. Possibly the three old records represent two of the coins mentioned as privately held plus a third still impounded somewhere. The piece is obviously about as rare as the dime. D. S. Wilson: 635 (1907) may be a reappearance of the Cleneay or Winsor pieces. There is also a piece from imperfectly polished dies and/or planchet but with excellent sharpness, passing from Steve Markoff to Harlan White and a private collector. Die identity must be rechecked on this one. Occasion: the new coinage, March 3; business strikes began April 26th.

**Half Dollar.** Arrows and rays. [5] Defect joins left arrow to base, date almost touches base and die defects join 1 5 to base. Rev.: Vertical striae; first red stripe thin at top, 2nd along most of length, 3rd at base; three die file marks slant up to r. from top leaves. (1) Smithsonian, from Mint collection. (2) The former Dr. J. Hewitt Judd specimen, "Illustrated History": 172, probably same as Reed Hawn: 178 at \$6,500. (3) Norweb. (4) A badly cleaned piece traced from Parmelee: 1234 via Steigerwalt to Woodin, Newcomer, Green and Lohr: 753. It has excellent sharpness, and was obviously a proof rather than a first strike. (5) N.Y. state specialist. Occasion: the new coinage, March 3. One of these was ex W. H. Smith:258 (Haseltine, Jan. 1883).

**Silver Dollar.** [12] All specimens known in silver or copper are restrikes made in late 1862 or 1863, using the regular proof rev. of that year and a new obverse. See *Restrikes and Fantasy Pieces*.

**Silver-minor proof sets.** None made for release to collectors according to George F. Jones (1860) cited above. As Mougey: 1277 was such a set, though lacking copper coins and half dime, it is possible that all the coins in it were restrikes except for the silver with arrows. I very much hope that the set has remained intact and may become available for examination. Die identities on these coins may enable determination if any of them are in fact originals rather than restrikes — with obvious effect on the status of the above described smaller silver denominations.

**Gold Coinage.** No proofs known, though at least one quarter eagle obv. was polished for use in making

proof pattern cents with a special rev. concocted for the purpose (ONE CENT in wreath, lacking any mention of our nation's identity). For the proof coins made experimentally by or for the San Francisco Provisional Mint (the U.S. Assay Office of Gold under Augustus Humbert), see *Mintmaster's Provisionals* below.

## 1854

**Half Cent.** Only the one obverse. Rev. Second die, with small rust pit on upper right part of upright and top serif of I of UNITED. Copper. About 25 to 30 survive.

— **Copper-nickel.** Judd 155, Adams-Woodin 192. Two known. (1) Woodin, Judson Brenner, F. C. C. Boyd, various dealer intermediaries, King Farouk, a Florida dealer named Randall (about 1955), unknown private coll. Weight unrecorded. (2) "Dupont": 1115, D. N., Dr. Spence sale, March 1975. Weight 84 grains (standard for copper), small edge nick. The original Woodin coin, described as "unique" in AW, was later theorized to be a restrike on a planchet intended for Flying Eagle cents. This would be proved if and only if the Woodin-Farouk coin weighs 72 grains, which is standard for 1856-64 small cents in this metal.



1854 Cent. N-12.

**Cent. N-12.** Small line (part of base of a 1 first punched too low) just below center of base of 1 in date; 54 about touch; date very high, slanting minutely down to right, with 1 touching bust, 85 all but touching device; faint die file marks at border below 854. Often slightly off center, border narrower at left obv., wider at r. with knife-rim. Less rare than the half cent, possibly 30 to 50 known. (1) SI from Mint. (2) Newcomb II:751, Phila. Estate. (3) Calif. Specialist. (4) "Dupont":991. (5) "Dupont":992, D.N., TAD:189. (6) J. B. Wilson, Ryder:938. (7) Hines, Downing, Sloss, Lahrman:475. (8) T. James Clarke:406. (9) Mougey:266, Beckwith:114, Morgan:386, B. Max Mehl as "Andrews 14," T. James Clarke:407. (10) The writer's example, obtained in Philadelphia, heavily coated with wax; later 1975 EAC, subsequently ruined by purchaser's cleaning. I have seen possibly a couple of dozen others.

**Trime.** New design, two extra outlines outside the star ("three outlines to star" in all), arrows and olive branch within the C, to distinguish the new coinage in standard silver from the 1851-53 billon





EP156



EP156. (A.W.-152). Gold Dollar. Dies by Longacre. U S A 1852/Seven laurel sprigs. Planchet with wide perforation. Gold. R.E. 2 known, both struck over quarter eagles. 1) Wilkinson (over 1846 coin); 2) H. P. Smith (over 1839 coin).

EP157. (A.W.-153). Same dies as last. Perforated. Silver. P.E. R8. 1) CMB, ex Farouk, Newcomer, Woodin, and presumably also ex Lohr and Hydeman (gilt); 2) Olsen. The Sunderland, Mehl sale of June 1936, or Kagin sale of Nov. 1964 probably account for the third piece.

EP158. Same dies as last. Perforated. Copper. P.E. R7. \$850. (For nickel strikes of this and the following perforated dollars, see under *Restrikes*.)



EP159



EP159. (A.W.-159, 160). Gold Dollar. Dies by Longacre. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and wavy lines/DOLLAR above, wreath below. Planchet with wide perforation. Gold. P.E. High R7. Found on thick and thin planchets. \$8000.

EP160. (A.W.-161, 162). Same dies as last. Perforated. Silver. P.E. High R7. 1) Smithsonian; 2) ANS; 3 & 4) Newcomer, thick and thin planchets.

EP161. (A.W.-163, 164). Same dies as last. Perforated. Copper. P.E. R7. \$850.

EP162. Same dies as last. Perforated. Brass. P.E. Unique. Lohr coll. This has not been verified by us, and may prove to be a restrike.

EP163. (A.W.-156). Gold Dollar. Obv. the same as EP156; Rev. the same as EP159. Planchet with wide perforation. Gold. P.E. High R7. \$8000.

EP164. Same dies as last. Perforated. Silver. P.E. Unique? Woodside coll.

EP165. (A.W.-157). Same dies as last. Perforated. Copper. P.E. R7. \$850.

## ESSAYS AND PATTERNS

1853



EP166



EP166. Cent. Experimental piece. Regular quarter eagle obv./ ONE CENT in wreath. German silver (40% nickel, 40% copper, 40% zinc). R.E. R6. \$550. No accurate correlation with A.W. numbers is possible for this issue.

EP167. Same dies as last. German silver 30% nickel, 60% copper, 10% zinc). R.E. R6. \$500. The color of this is darker than the last, and closer to that of a copper coin.

EP168. Same dies as last. Copper-nickel (60:40%) R.E. R7. \$650. Slightly magnetic, light steel color.

EP169. Rev. of last. Other side blank but for milling. Copper. Sometimes silver plated. R6. \$500.

EP170. Rev. of last. Other side blank but for milling. Copper-nickel. R6. \$500.

EP171. Rev. of last. Other side blank but for milling. Billon. R6. \$500.

EP172. Trime. Dies by Longacre. Type adopted in 1854, with three outlines to star, and arrows and branch on rev. Silver. P.E. Unique. Mickley coll. "Coined April 10th, the first coinage of this denomination of standard silver; none issued for some time after." —A notation by Mickley which accompanied the coin. It was purchased by Levick, and has not since turned up.

1854

EP173. (A.W.-192). Half Cent. Experimental piece? Regular dies. Copper-nickel. P.E. R8. 1) Farouk; 2) Dupont.



EP174





treasurer, the half-cent coinages from 1832 to 1835 were each credited to the subsequent year. Common in circulated cond.

	FINE	V.F.	E.F.	UNC.	RED UNC.	PRF.
H43. 1833 (120,000) Common brown to red unc. from hoards.	22.	27.	35.	85.	350.	750.
H44. 1834 (141,000)	22.	27.	35.	85.	350.	750.
H45. 1835 (398,000) Common spotty red unc. from hoards.	22.	27.	35.	85.	300.	750.
H46. 1836 Original	—	—	—	—	—	1500.
H47. 1836 restrike (rev. of 1852)	—	—	—	—	—	—

1831, 1836, 1840-49, and 1852 Proof half cents were struck for collectors and dignitaries.



H48



	PROOF
H48. 1840. orig. Large berries. Wire rims on originals less pronounced than on restrikes.	1200
H49. 1840. restrike	1100
H50. 1841. orig. Same rev., same comments as for 1840. Both the 1840 and 1841 originals are frequently found on reeded edge blanks struck in a plain edge collar.	1200
H51. 1841. restrike	1100
H52. 1842. orig. Same rev. and comments as 1840.	1200
H53. 1842. restrike	1100
H54. 1843. orig. Same rev. and comments as 1840.	1150
H55. 1843. restrike	1100
H56. 1844. orig. Same rev. and comments as 1840.	1250
H57. 1844. restrike	1100

	PROOF
H58. 1845. orig. Same rev. and comments as 1840.	1700
H59. 1845. restrike	1350
H60. 1846. orig. Same rev. and comments as 1840.	1300
H61. 1846. restrike	1150
H62. 1847. orig. Same rev. and comments as 1840.	1200
H63. 1847. restrike	1100
H64. 1848. orig. Same rev. and comments as 1840.	1400
H65. 1848. restrike	1000
H66. 1849. orig. Small date; same rev. and comments as 1840.	1700
H67. 1849. restrike	1000

## HEAD LEFT WITH CORONET

	FINE	V.F.	E.F.	UNC.	RED UNC.	PRF.
H68. 1849 Large date (39,864) Almost unavailable in brilliant unc.	27.	35.	45.	175.	575.	—
H69. 1850 (39,812)	25.	35.	45.	140.	500.	—
H70. 1851 (147,672)	22.	27.	35.	90.	325.	—
H71. 1852.	—	—	—	—	—	1000.

Small berries. Same type, rev. of the 1849 large date proofs, and all proof half cents of the 50's. Without double impression at CENT and ribbon on reverse, and free of die scratches over RICA of AMERICA.

The 1840 Large berry reverse die used on the original proof—only half cents 1840-49 was retired from use in late 1849 when the large date proofs of that year were produced—with small berries. Thereafter, the same type small berry reverse was used on all proof half cents.

There would be no reason in 1852 to revert to the use of the worn 1840 large berry reverse die used for the previous decade (die wear is discernible on stems of berries and of leaves). There would be no reason to return to a small berry reverse for the proof half cents after 1852.

The statement that the Mint, in making these Proof—only half cents for collectors, would desire the reverses of the coins to be uniform as to size of reverse berries is illogical. At the time, there was no recognition of small and large berry varieties.

H72. 1853 (129,694)	22.	27.	35.	85.	675.	—
Very rare in brilliant unc.						
H73. 1854 (55,358)	22.	27.	35.	85.	300.	650.
Common in spotty red unc. from a hoard.						





2 : 1-B

Gilbert 1

### RUST PIT ON 1 IN UNITED

#### Obverse 1.

Reverse B. Rust pit on 1 in UNITED, at top and extending down a little into upright. Stems right of T in CENT do not form a loop. A's in AMERICA open at their bases. Faint lines near left top of M and through F in OF, on the earliest states only.

Die states: I. Obverse repolished. Reverse as noted.

II. The lines through M and F no longer show.

Equivalents: Empire 126. Included in Encyclopedia 1377. Mentioned in CMM 1.

Rarity 3.

As Proof, low Rarity 6, nearly R-5.

Remarks: This die was first observed on proofs; business strikes were not known to exist until 1956. It is still a minority of the latter.

In the Crosby sale [John W. Haseltine, June 27-29, 1883], one was described as having been struck in brass. This has not since been located, but probably exists; many of the other Crosby sale items, especially experimental pieces, were not located again until recent years. I suspect that the true metal was a kind later called "oroide", in which

experimental cents were struck as late as 1864.

Adams-Woodin [1913] listed as their No. 192 a specimen struck in copper-nickel, there called "unique." The discovery coin passed from the William H. Woodin collection to Judson Brenner [who included it in his display at the ANS Exhibit, in 1914], later to F. C. C. Boyd, and then to King Farouk I, of Egypt. At the auction of the Palace Collections of Egypt in 1954, a Florida dealer named Randall acquired the piece and later offered it for \$500.; listed as Encyclopedia 1378\*. I have not seen it, nor was the weight ever mentioned. One was offered in the "Anderson-Dupont" collection [Stack's, November 11-13, 1954], lot 1155, at \$350., to Dorothy Nelson, for the owner of the "TAD" large cents [Stack's, March 15, 1975], lot 880, at \$1,800.; this weighs 84 grains. A rim nick showed, apparently, copper-nickel metal underneath the toning. However, recent tests disclosed no nickel content. Its owner has vainly sought the Woodin-Boyd-Farouk-Randall specimen.

#### Condition Census:

A few dozen specimens have been seen, mostly in brown or part red Uncirculated.

#### Proof Census:

Approximately thirty proofs are in collectors' hands.



1854

VARIETY #1

**Equivalents** G-1, E-125 & 126

**Obverse** A small date with a slanting 5. The hub which was used for the "Braided Hair" Half Cent dies had a small defect in the hair to the lower right of the ear which, on this die, is repaired with the use of the graver. The hub defect can be seen on all the other "Braided Hair" Half Cents as it is not repaired.

**Reverse** On some examples of this date, the I in UNITED has a lump near its top. The lump is very minute and requires at least a 10-power glass to be seen. It is not known whether the pit which causes the lump was on the same die which struck perfect specimens, or whether it is an entirely new die.

**Rarity 1** A common coin in condition of Fine and higher. Numerous red Uncirculated specimens are known. This coin is usually well struck with the obverse stars and both obverse and reverse border rims well defined.

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**GENERAL COMMENTS**

Coinage reported is 55,358.



## ANA CERTIFICATION SERVICE

### X-Ray Analysis Reveals Previously Unsuspected Pattern

Within the study of U.S. pattern coinage and related items are many unanswered questions. The most common area of uncertainty concerns the exact composition of a given piece.

In the standard reference on the series, *United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces*, Dr. J. Hewitt Judd usually refers to an alloy of 75-percent copper/25-percent nickel as "nickel" and 88-percent copper/12-percent nickel as "copper-nickel," though in common numismatic usage both are referred to as "copper-nickel." Pure nickel is called "nickel (pure)" and is described as magnetic, while various experimental alloys are spelled out when known.

Sometimes experiments involved the use of similar alloys within the same year, such as the Flying Eagle large cent patterns of 1855, which were struck in copper (J-167), bronze (J-168), 80-percent copper/20-percent nickel (J-170), and 60-percent copper/40-percent nickel (J-171). In most cases the first two can be differentiated by color, the copper being a solid chocolate brown and the bronze showing streaks of brass from improper mixing of the copper, tin and zinc. The two copper-nickel alloys, however, cannot be distinguished by the same method.

Recently ANACS received four copper-nickel pieces with the request that they be identified as either J-170 or J-171. Rather than return them as "No Decision," as would normally be the case, ANACS decided to bear the expense of X-ray analysis to see if there might be some other way of telling them apart once they were properly identified.

Surprisingly, the four pieces proved to be composed of neither of the expected alloys. The first three pieces averaged approximately 75-percent copper/12-percent nickel/13-percent zinc, an alloy known as one type of German silver. The fourth piece showed approximately the same composition plus a trace of aluminum, which may have been surface contamination on the sample tested, an unintentional contamination of the alloy



*German silver 1855 pattern cents. Weakly-struck areas around eagle's head, wings, talons and tail feathers; wreath and reverse lettering also is weak.*

itself that occurred when it was melted, or a deliberate attempt to soften the alloy.

The composition certainly needed softening, as the four pieces examined were all very weakly struck. After the government's last experiment with German silver (other alloys were tested on 1853 and 1854 cents), the Mint gave up and adopted the 88-percent copper/12-percent nickel alloy used in small-sized cents of 1856-64.

The four pieces tested by ANACS, which ultimately were designated J-170a, might be missing links between the various copper-nickel and German silver patterns of 1852-55, and the copper-nickel Flying Eagle and Indian cents. The 12-percent nickel content of the four pieces is consistent with that of the 1856-64 cents, but the zinc was replaced by an equal percentage of copper in the cent issues.



This discovery has raised the question of whether Judd numbers 170 and 171 actually exist. Considering that four pieces thought to be one or the other turned out to be neither, perhaps no typical examples of either variety exist.

\* \* \*

While on the subject of experimental pieces, one issue of particular interest was struck by the U.S. Mint, not to test alloys or designs, but rather vending machines and coin counters.

Struck by the thousands in 1979, the pieces were loaned to manufacturers of equipment produced to handle the flood of Susan B. Anthony dollars released that year. The pieces were struck in copper-nickel clad on copper for the vending machine and slug rejector manufacturers, who were concerned with the electrical-resistance characteristics of the actual coins; and in solid copper-nickel for coin-wrapping and counting-machine manufacturers, who were only concerned about the physical dimensions of the actual coins.

The characteristics of the experimental piece—diameter, weight, 11-sided raised rim and reeded edge—resemble those of



*Susan B. Anthony dollar trial piece shows 11-sided raised rim and shallow mound on either side. Machining marks indicate mound was crudely routed into a blank die with a lathe.*

the SBA dollar. The obverse and reverse of the piece feature broad, shallow mounds that simulate the raised relief of the actual coin.

According to Alan Herbert of *Numismatic News*, the U.S. Mint takes the position that because the test pieces were not legally issued, they are subject to seizure by the Secret Service. Special thanks are extended to Mr. Herbert for the photographs and information presented in this discussion.

## ANACS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MAY

**4-6** AMARILLO, TX. Civic Center. ANACS booth and seminar, Texas Numismatic Association Convention. Nela Runkle, 4304 Jennie, Amarillo, TX 79106.

**4-6** GRAND RAPIDS, MI. Grand Center & Grand Plaza. ANACS booth and seminar, Michigan State Numismatic Society Convention. Florence Schook, P.O. Box 2014, Livonia, MI 48154.

**18-20** ATLANTA, GA. Galleria Mall. ANACS booth and seminar, Georgia Numismatic Association Convention. Michael W. Griffith, P.O. Box 611, Lilburn, GA 30247.

**31-June 3** LONG BEACH, CA. Long Beach Convention Center. ANACS booth, Long Beach Expo. S.L. Lopresto, 309 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802.

**31-June 3** TULSA, OK. Tulsa Assembly Center. ANACS booth and seminar, Oklahoma Numismatic Association Convention. ONA, P.O. Box 35323, Tulsa, OK 74153.

### JUNE

**21-24** CHERRY HILL, NJ. Hyatt Cherry Hill. ANACS booth and seminar, Garden State Numismatic Association 9th Annual Convention. Stephen R. Taylor, 70 West View Ave., Dover, DE 19901.

### JULY

**28-August 1** DETROIT, MI. Cobo Hall Convention Center. ANACS booth, 93rd Anniversary Convention of the American Numismatic Association. Florence Schook, P.O. Box 2014, Livonia, MI 48154.

### OCTOBER

**4-7** LONG BEACH, CA. Long Beach Convention Center. ANACS booth, Long Beach Expo. S.L. Lopresto, 309 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802.

**19-21** LITTLE ROCK, AR. Camelot Inn. ANACS booth and seminar, Arkansas Numismatic Society Annual Coin Show & Convention. ANS, 115 Donaghey Bldg., Little Rock, AR 72201.



# PENNY-WISE

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## THE 1854 COPPER-NICKEL PATTERN HALF CENT - DOES IT EXIST? -- PART II

R. Tettenhorst

Hello again, Patient Readers!

When last we chatted, the Woodin-Farouk-Norweb coin, the so-called 1854 copper-nickel pattern (Judd-155), had been sent off to the American Numismatic Association Certification Service (ANACS) for X-Ray spectroscopy. The Dupont-Spence piece had previously proven to be 100 percent copper, and not a pattern. The Norweb piece had a similar full-strike and similar 83.4 grain weight. Therefore, I thought I knew what the results of the test on the Norweb piece would be, namely:

- 1) that it was impossible for nickel to be in the alloy;
- 2) thus, the Norweb coin would be a regular copper 1854 half cent;
- 3) thus, since no other example of J-155 was known, that pattern simply did not exist.

While awaiting the letter to confirm these conclusions, I began writing an article with the title "The Undiscovery of a Variety."

When the letter from ANACS did arrive, I casually opened it. However, my nonchalance soon dissolved. My first assumption was indeed correct, since the coin did not contain any nickel. However, as to the other assumptions, I could not have been more wrong.

The approximate metallic content of the coin was:

copper	80%
tin	16%
silver	4%
nickel	0%

Tin! Silver! Clearly J-155 was firmly reestablished as a pattern in an experimental alloy. What a totally unexpected development!



From every answered question comes a number of conclusions, and often a new set of questions.

## CONCLUSIONS

- 1) Searching for numismatic information is great fun. In fact, it can be as much fun as searching for coins. Even when I wasn't making any progress toward the answer I was looking for, it was an enjoyable experience. I met many friendly numismatists. Typically, they listened to the question and the reason for asking it; they expressed interest; they encouraged me to continue the search; and they made suggestions as to other people who might be contacted.
- 2) Almost anyone can do research. The observations made and investigations undertaken did not require any particular depth of numismatic knowledge. As our mid-western farmers sometimes say, "Even a blind pig will pick up an acorn once in a while."
- 3) Just because something has been written down in books for a long time and often repeated doesn't always mean that it is true.
- 4) A certain humility is important for a researcher. Just because I knew some significant facts didn't mean that I knew all the facts.
- 5) J-155 is a pattern, but, of course, with a much different metallic content than was previously ascribed to it.

## QUESTIONS

- 1) Why did Mr. Woodin make a mistake of this magnitude?
- 2) Why did so many knowledgeable numismatists examine the Woodin-Farouk-Norweb half cent and the Dupont-Spence half cent over the years without raising the questions about differences in strike and weight between these 1854 coins and the 1856 copper-nickel patterns, which are so obvious using hindsight?
- 3) Why was there tin and silver in this Norweb coin alloy? Here let me offer some hypotheses. As to tin, J. P. Martin of ANACS quotes a letter from James C. Booth, the melter and assayer of the U.S. Mint at Philadelphia, who said that more tin was added "in an attempt to prevent the bronze pieces from tarnishing" (it has previously been assumed that this comment referred to J-162, the one cent piece struck in a material described "Oroide"). As to silver, since the mint was testing alloys for a smaller one-cent piece to replace the large copper cents which most of us love, a 4 percent silver content would be about what was needed to ensure that the new coins would contain one cent's worth of metal. At the time when this pattern was made, those responsible for our coins were still operating under the quaint nineteenth-century notion that money should have intrinsic value. They did not realize that one could rely solely on the integrity of our elected officials to make sure that money retained its full worth. They believed that you needed full precious metal content in money to avoid inflation. It was such a cynical age!
- 4) Are there other nineteenth-century pattern coins which have a metallic content different from what is specified in the current references? How many others have actually been tested?

Finally, appreciation should be expressed to Frank Wilkinson for the high quality of his photographs, which reveal so clearly the critical issue of strike intensity. Also, thanks to those EAC members who wrote me after Part I of the article, which appeared in the March, 1990 issue of Penny-Wise, and others who

expressed opinions at the May, 1990 EAC Convention. And, of course, without the help of Eric P. Newman who arranged for and those who carried out the nondestructive metallic tests, none of the new information would be known.



July 2, 1989

Dear Tett,

Please excuse my own slowness to respond to your letter of 29 May — the combination of being out of town for ten days, preparing for our daughter's tenth birthday, and getting the upcoming Pennywise put together put a lot of other things on the 'back burner.'

I personally feel that a numismatic detective story of the sort you propose would be most welcome. The elements of a unique piece dropping from sight, then reappearing to yield its secrets; that piece originating — ostensibly — in



a decade of particular turmoil  
and skulduggery at the Mint;  
should hold the attention of  
anyone whose interest in  
early copper goes beyond 'what's  
it worth?'

Soliciting a vote following the  
March article would add  
to the interest — as long as  
the options were spelled out  
in fairly simple terms. Con-  
versely, an open-ended question  
of the sort that I recall you  
posing before you talk on  
dark struck half cents some  
years ago, would be less likely  
to involve the non-specialists.

I'd be very pleased to put you  
on the Educational Forum  
agenda for Orlando.

As to your question on the  
timing of the May issue, yes,  
my thought at this time is  
to delay its appearance <sup>a couple</sup> of  
weeks - it hardly seems  
practicable to make people  
wait until late July for  
the news of what transpired  
in early May; but at the same  
time, some clear limits would  
also have to be spelled out -  
i.e. somebody always wants to  
send me something just after  
the deadline, and we can't  
have the "May" issue dragging  
out into June....

Regards -

Harry.



# Stack's

123 WEST 57TH STREET • NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

# CREDIT MEMORANDUM

DATE April 28, 1975

ADDRESS 400 WASHINGTON AVE

St. Louis, Mo. 63102

[illegible]



NUMISMATISTS  
AUCTIONEERS • APPRAISERS

*Stack's*

COINS • MEDALS • PAPER MONEY

123 WEST 57TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 • TEL: 212/582-2580

April 28th, 1975

PERSONAL

Mr. Bernard Edison  
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.  
400 Washington Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Dear Bernard:

We are in receipt of your letter of the 24th, together with the 1854 Proof Half Cent and accompanied by Peter Gaspar's report of April 24th.

Inasmuch as the coin was originally catalogued by us in 1954 after having it tested (copy of which I cannot locate at this time), we did not submit the coin to a new test. I believe ours was made by specific gravity rather than the x-ray spectra technique.

I am sure your test is more conclusive than our original one. We are, therefore, issuing a credit to your account for the lot. We would, however, appreciate if you could return the original envelopes so that we can keep the pedigree (for what it's worth) together.

Sorry to have had to put you to this extra work. The results naturally were a revelation to us, but we all like to learn.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

STACK'S

Harvey G. Stack



HGS:rz  
enc.



May 14, 1975

Mr. Harvey Stack  
Stack's  
123 West 57th Street  
New York, New York 10019

Dear Harvey:

Thanks for your prompt and gracious response on the 1854 half cent. I am sorry, too, to have been the source of this return. I am enclosing the two envelopes, as you requested.

I am also including another payment on my account which should take care of the bulk of it. I expect to clean up the balance very shortly.

As a half-cent specialist, I would naturally be interested in your analysis of the situation in regard to the 1854 copper nickel pattern:

- A. Does this mean that there is only one valid copper nickel pattern of that date?
- B. Is the Farouk specimen also now in doubt as to its composition?
- C. Do you know who has the Farouk specimen, and if so, would it be possible to also have it similarly tested?
- D. On the other hand, is it likely that there were two genuine specimens, and that the second one is simply somewhere else other than where we thought it was?

Very sincerely,

Bernard Edison

rmt

enclosures (3)

# United States Patterns

AND

## Related Issues

To Mr. Eric P. Newman with  
best wishes From the author.

Andrew W. Pollock III

**Andrew W. Pollock III**  
*foreword by Q. David Bowers*

Masha

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(carefully) for Bernard

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Eric



**Larry Hanks** provided pedigree information about some exceedingly rare varieties, and informed the author about an unlisted 1878 pattern dollar variety • **John F. Harper** provided information about pattern five-cent pieces • **Jon Harris** loaned rare varieties for study • **Joel S. Harwin** supplied pedigree data on rare varieties • **Jules d'Hemecourt** loaned pattern varieties for study • **Kenn Henderson** provided much information about the experimental pieces produced by the International Nickel Company and other firms in the mid 1960s, and loaned photographs • **Michael J. Hodder** provided information about rare patterns varieties and supplied citations relating to patterns in numismatic journals • **Donald A. Holt** reported on pieces seen by him • **Robert W. Hoge** sent the author the inventory of patterns in the ANA Collection • **Paul M. Honkavaara** furnished information about a pattern one-cent variety.

**Dr. J. Bruce Jackson** reported on pieces seen by him • **Elizabeth Jones** shared insights relating to the preparation of patterns.

**William S. Kable** furnished information on Dana Bickford \$10 patterns • **Art Kagin** loaned several rare patterns and die trials for photography and study • **John M. Kleeberg** arranged for Cathy Dumont and the author to weigh, measure, and photograph many of the pattern pieces in the ANS Collection • **Martin Kodner** provided pedigree information about off-metal stellars • **James Koutsoures** corresponded with the author about privately issued 19th-century varieties • **Walt Kowalewski** loaned a pattern 1916 Mercury dime for study • **Ken Krah** provided information about an unlisted variety • **Krause Publications** allowed the author to incorporate information from its *Auction Prices Realized* series into the text of this book.

**Cynthia LaCarbonara** typed correspondence for the author • **Julian Leidman** offered opinions about the rarity of many varieties and loaned the author numerous 1858 pattern cents for examination • The owner of the **Lemus Collection** allowed Cathy Dumont and the author the opportunity to weigh, measure, and photograph approximately 400 pattern pieces in his collection • **The Library Company of Philadelphia** supplied an inventory of pattern pieces in its collection • **Lee Lilljedahl** read the manuscript, made many typographical corrections, and offered suggestions to improve grammar and style • **Jesse Limoli** provided information about 20th-century pattern pieces • **Edward J. Linckner, M.D.** provided information on various pattern varieties • **Denis Loring** loaned a 1793 Strawberry Cent electrotype for photography.

**Emmett McDonald** furnished an important document • **Randy A. McIntosh** provided historical information about patterns • **J.P. Martin** supplied information about pieces he had studied as an authenticator at ANACS and at the ANA Authentication Bureau • **Debbie McIntire** typed correspondence for the author • **Robert Meek** supplied important pedigree information • **Jennifer Meers** coordinated the preparation of the book and created its format • **Alan Meghriq** furnished information about pattern two-cent pieces

• **Mark Merena** implemented corrections and improvements to the manuscript • **Raymond N. Merena** collected much information about patterns which was transferred to the author in 1988 when work on this book first commenced • **Charlton Meyer** loaned the author several die trials for study • **David Messner** shared technical information about some rare varieties • **Scott Mitchell** provided information on unusual patterns • **Rick Montgomery** reported several new varieties of patterns and supplied technical details about metallic compositions.

**Eric Newman** supplied an inventory of patterns in his collection • **Arthur Newmark** reported on pieces seen by him • **Jeff Notrica** informed the author about some unusual pieces and loaned varieties for study • **David Novoselsky** provided important technical data.

**David Parker** loaned a pattern cent for study • **W. David Perkins** furnished information on various varieties • **Tom Pilitowski** loaned rare patterns and die trials • **John J. Pittman** shared information about patterns • **Doug Plasencia** coordinated the receipt and return of patterns loaned to the author for study • **Donna Pope** made arrangements whereby the author visited the Mint and gained insights into pattern production • **Ken Potter** supplied information about various modern-day patterns • **James Bennett Pryor** furnished data about pieces in his collection.

**Ginger Rapsus** shared information about rare varieties, especially 1916 Mercury dime patterns • **Ed Rector** reported on pieces seen by him • **R.J. Regan** supplied information about various varieties • **Jules Reiver** provided data relating to the elemental analysis of pattern cents, and informed the author about the various experimental issues of the DuPont Company • **G. Wayne Ricks** reported on pieces seen by him • **Jay Roe** sent information about 1849 pattern gold dollars • **Alex Roter, M.D.** loaned numerous die and hub trials • **Bob Rozycki** furnished data on various varieties • **Mark Rush** loaned rare pattern varieties and provided copies of many mid 19th-century Mint documents.

**Leonard Saunders** loaned an important reference book • **Donald Scarinci** reported on pieces seen by him • **Rodney D. Scott** furnished information on various varieties • **The Smithsonian Institution** provided Cathy Dumont and the author with an opportunity to weigh, measure, and photograph the patterns in the National Numismatic Collection • **Rick Snow** loaned the author an unlisted 1884-O Morgan dollar struck in copper • **Ken Spatola** arranged to have pattern pieces loaned to author for study • **John M. Stehnach** shared technical observations about a rare variety • **James E. Strickling** furnished information on pattern five-cent pieces • **Mike Stimpson** provided records from the Congressional archives • **David M. Sundman** supplied a listing of control code numbers on 1960s G.M. pattern "cents."

**Saul Teichman** provided many hundreds of detailed pedigree listings, and numerous technical observations • **R. Tettenhorst** shared research findings about an 1854 half cent struck in orioide • **Mary Tocci** coordinated the receipt



1854

In this year, Mint Director James R. Snowden had some light-weight pattern cents struck on copper and bronze planchets; see varieties [187, 189, 190, and 191]. Although these were considerably smaller than those in circulation at the time, Snowden believed they would be readily accepted by the public. A parcel of these pattern cents was shipped to the Treasury Department on December 13, 1854, together with a report wherein Snowden offered the following commentary:

Sir: In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 11th instant, I have caused to be struck, and herewith forward one hundred specimens of the proposed cent therein referred to; and have the honor now to recapitulate the various points of information on that subject which heretofore [have] been communicated to the department. In so doing, it will, perhaps, best subserve the wishes of the department, and of the committees in Congress, if I should present the projet of a law, in several sections, with explanatory remarks appended to each section.

**AN ACT relating to the coinage of cents**

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted, &c.,* That from and after the passage of this act, the standard weight of the cent coined at the mint of the United States shall be ninety-six grains, or two-tenths of one ounce troy, with no greater deviation than four grains in a single piece; and that the coinage of the half-cent shall cease.

Remarks.—The present weight of the cent is 168 grains; at the current price of copper, the government is barely saved from the loss by the coinage, and is every day liable to become an actual loser. Yet the experience of every country has settled this point, that the lowest denominations of coin are not made acceptable on account of their market value, but on account of the government stamp, and the convenience of having such pieces for small transactions. For the proposed reduction of weight of the cent, we have abundant precedents. In 1792 the legal weight was 264 grains; early in 1793 it was reduced to 208 grains; in 1796, in pursuance of legal authorization, President Washington issued a proclamation reducing the cent to 168 grains—the present legal standard. In France, at this day, the piece of ten centimes—say two cents of our money—weighs less than our cent, yet passes freely. Dealers all over the country will feel obliged for such an unloading of copper as the change from 168 to 96 grains would produce. The allowance of four grains for deviation is a customary “remedy of the mint.” and is neces-

sary for the practical operations. The omission of the half-cent scarcely needs a remark. It is useless. People will not take the trouble to make a cent with two pieces of money.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the said cent shall be composed of copper, with any admixture, not exceeding five per cent. in weight, of metals which may render it more suitable for the purposes of coin. And the devices upon said cent shall express its country, denomination, and date of coinage.

Remarks.—In regard to the various experiments recently made here, as to the desirableness of introducing a German-silver cent, I presume it will not be necessary here to recapitulate the correspondence which is already in the possession of the department, and which, I presume, will be laid before the committee in Congress to whom it is your desire to refer this subject. A decided preference for the copper coin, if its weight can be reduced to ninety-six grains, is the conclusion to which my mind is brought, after a careful consideration of the advantages and objections on both sides. The allowance of five per cent. for the admixture of other metals—tin and zinc being intended—is to make an alloy which will improve the color and reduce the liability to corrosion and foulness. It is the same mixture which the French are using for coinage, under the name of bronze, but I have avoided that term as being vaguely applied among us to very different metallic mixtures and colorings.

Other sections of the proposed act provided for the production of ninety-six grain cent planchets by private manufacturers and the exchange of the new cents for the old large cents.

**HALF CENT.** Obverse and reverse: The dies used to coin regular-issue 1854 half cents, Breen-2.

❖ **184. Oroide (copper-tin alloy). Plain edge.** Rarity-8. AW-192, Judd-155, Taxay-EP173 (not in Davis). Although described as being copper-nickel in the past, Robert Tettenhorst reports that X-ray spectroscopy analysis has determined that the composition contains no nickel, but is instead approximately 80% copper, 16% tin, and 4% silver.

(1) W.H. Woodin; J. Brenner; 1914 ANS exhibition; F.C.C. Boyd; King Farouk; Sotheby's, 1954, “Palace Collection,” Lot 1750, VF; James P. Randall, 1957; Mr. and Mrs. R. Henry Norweb; Bowers and Merena, October 1987, Norweb, Lot 134\*, Uncirculated, 83.4 grains; R. Tettenhorst.

Carl W.A. Carlson reports that Sylvester Sage Crosby



exhibited an example at the March 1872 meeting of the Boston Numismatic Society.



[figure 70]

**ONE CENT.** Obverse: The Liberty Seated design as employed on the silver coins, with thirteen stars around, and the date below. Reverse: The denomination 1 CENT within a wreath of oak leaves and acorns.

The Mint continued to experiment with German silver and nickel alloys in 1854, and produced a series of patterns using these dies. The obverse was evidently crudely reduced from an 1851 silver dollar die using the portrait lathe.

James C. Booth suggested that the German silver cent should be intermediate in size between the dime and quarter dollar. The Mint did not intend to use these designs in the event that German silver was adopted as a coinage metal, but simply prepared the pieces to illustrate the proposed size and the physical characteristics of the metal.

The 1851-dated German silver and nickel alloy patterns were coined using the same alloys as employed to produce the 1853 cent patterns:

1) German silver: 30% nickel, 60% copper, 10% zinc. Dr. Judd reports that these pieces have the appearance of bronze or old copper. Davis-70, Judd-157, Taxay-EP175, (Adams-Woodin attribution numbers do not clearly correlate with Judd or Taxay).

2) German silver: 40% nickel, 40% copper, 20% zinc. These pieces are described by Dr. Judd as resembling copper-nickel in color, (such as was used to coin Flying Eagle and early Indian Head cents?). Davis-70, Judd-156, Taxay-EP174, (Adams-Woodin attribution numbers do not clearly correlate with Judd or Taxay).

3) Nickel alloy: nickel 40%, copper 60%. Described as having a white or grayish white color. Said to be slightly magnetic. Davis-70, Judd-158, Taxay-EP176.

As a practical consideration, numismatists are frequently unable to make definitive attributions when cataloging 1854 German silver and nickel alloy cents. Some specimens described as being Judd-156 by one numismatist, may be called J-157 or 158 by another. Since this uncertainty exists, and since it appears that elemental analysis is the only definitive way to distinguish between the different varieties, we have elected to assign a single attribution number to all of the German silver and nickel alloy pieces, pending a better understanding of the characteristics and metrology of each composition.

#### ❖ 185. German silver (various compositions) or

**nickel alloy. Reeded edge.** Rarity-6 to 7.

(1) Rarcoa, April 1976, Central States, Lot 456\*, Proof (as J-158).  
(2) Superior, June 1977, Crouch, Lot 13\*, Uncirculated (as J-158); New England, April 1980, Fund, Lot 361\*, Proof (as J-158); Melnick, November 1982, Hoffman, Lot 8\*, Uncirculated (as J-158); Heritage, February 1984, ANA, Lot 513\*, Proof, (as J-156).

(3) Bowers and Ruddy, November 1979, Bartlett, Lot 2969\*, Uncirculated, (as J-156).

(4) Mid-American, May 1985, Robertson, Lot 787\*, Uncirculated (as J-158).

(5) Stack's, June 1988, Sprinkle, Lot 448\*, Proof (as J-157).

(6) Stack's, October 1988, Lot 602\*, Proof (as J-156 or 157); Lemus Collection, 51.5 grains, diameter: 0.848 inches, die alignment: 180°.

(7) A. Kosoff, 1962, *Illustrated History*, Lot 174\* (as J-158).

(A) B. Reed; Omaha City Library, Inv. No. P-33, 52.9 grains.

(B) W.E. Woodward, October 1867, Mickley, Lot 2180, VF; Crosby.

(C) Hewitt, April 1972; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation, 51.0 grains, diameter: 0.850 inches, die alignment: about 180°.

(D) J. Leidman, May 1973; Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation, 53.2 grains, diameter: 0.852 inches, die alignment: 180°.

Auction prices realized • 1992: • \$3,410 • 1991: • \$825 • 1990: • \$2,530 • 1,600 • 1989: • \$2,090 • 1985: • \$560 • 1984: • \$1,000 • 1982: • \$675 • 1981: • \$400.

❖ **186. Copper. Plain edge.** Rarity-6 to 7. Davis-70, AW-148, Judd-159, Taxay-EP177. Most of the pieces offered over the years are electrotypes said to have been made at the Mint in such a way as to have a clear ring.

(1) Rarcoa, April 1975, Central States, Lot 347\*, Uncirculated, (electrotype); Harry W. Bass, Jr. Research Foundation, 73.1 grains, diameter: 0.835 inches, die alignment: 180°.

(2) Superior, August 1975, ANA, Lot 1222\*, Uncirculated, (electrotype).

(3) Bowers and Ruddy, 1974, *Rare Coin Review*, No. 21, p. 42\*, Uncirculated, (die struck).

(4) Superior, June 1977, Crouch, Lot 14\*, Uncirculated, (electrotype). Bowers and Merena, March 1987, Taylor, Lot 3741\*, Uncirculated, (die struck), 74.2 grains.

(5) Superior, June 1987, Crouch, Lot 15\*, Uncirculated, (electrotype).

(6) Superior, June 1977, Crouch, Lot 16\*, Uncirculated, (electrotype); J. Reiver.

(7) Melnick, November 1982, Hoffman, Lot 9\*, Uncirculated, (electrotype).

(8) Paramount, July 1983, Auction '83, Lot 266\*, Uncirculated, (electrotype).

(A) B. Reed; Omaha City Library, Inv. No. P-114, 75.0 grains.

(B) J.C. Mitchelson, 1913; Connecticut State Library, Inv. No. 11587.

(C) Stack's, August 1971, ANA, Lot 265; Lemus Collection, 74.7 grains, diameter: 0.833 inches, die alignment: 180°, (electrotype).

Auction prices realized • 1992: • \$1,870 • 1,320 • 1991: • \$1,760 • 1988: • \$687 • 1986: • \$1,705 • 1983: • \$660 • 1982: • \$575 • 440.



[figure 71]



# 1856

In 1856, the Mint focused much of its research effort on the creation of suitable small-size one-cent coins to replace the unpopular large cents then in circulation. In a letter from Mint Director James Patterson to Secretary of the Treasury James Guthrie, dated July 11, 1856, the coinage of small-size pattern one-cent pieces is discussed, and the creation of experimental copper-nickel half cents is explained. This letter was quoted by Guthrie in a communication to Congress dated July 15, 1856.

Sir: In a former communication respecting an alteration of the cent coinage I took occasion to say I had requested the melter and refiner to prosecute further experiments with a view to the ascertainment of the most suitable alloy for that coinage. . . .

Recent experiments have induced us to prefer an alloy in which . . . in every hundred parts of weight of metal there shall be eighty-eight of copper and twelve of nickel. This alloy seems to possess all the desirable characteristics for a cent piece. I have accordingly caused some specimens to be struck, fifty pieces of which I send you by Mr. Colmesnil, an agent of the department. To prevent expense and delay we have used the half cent dies. The specimens will show that the mixture receives a good impression from the dies and exhibits its color and general appearance.

The infusion of twelve per cent of nickel which is a metal of considerable value — elevates the character of the material, and besides the advantages of color and general appearance will enable us to have a cent of less weight and at the same time preserve some just proportion between the intrinsic and the nominal value of the coin.

James C. Booth, the melter and refiner at the Mint, in a letter to Secretary Guthrie, dated July 18, 1856, added some additional information on the proposed copper-nickel alloy:

The peculiar tone of color will render it difficult of close imitation; and even if it could be counterfeited by a cheaper alloy, the difference in value would not yield a remuneration sufficient to cover the cost of manufacture and danger of detection, because a vast amount would have to be forced on the community before the aggregate profit would compensate cost. . . . The admixture of the valuable metal, nickel, will tend to give character to the new cent and will render it popular.

During 1856, Congress debated the coinage bill which was to become the Act of February 21, 1857. Section 4 of the Act

reads as follows:

And be it further enacted that from and after the passage of this act, the standard weight of the cent coined at the Mint shall be seventy-two grains, or three twentieths of an ounce troy, with no greater deviation than four grains in each piece; and said cent shall be composed of eighty eight per centum of copper, and twelve per centum of nickel, of such shape and device as may be fixed by the Director of the Mint, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury.

In anticipation of the new copper-nickel coinage, the Mint prepared several different patterns featuring a flying eagle motif on the obverse.

**HALF CENT.** The regular dies of the year, Breen-2, but struck in copper nickel. Some strikings reportedly contain 88% copper and 12% nickel, other pieces exist which are composed of 90% copper and 10% nickel. These two different compositional varieties may not be distinguishable without elemental analysis.

## ❖ 205. Copper-nickel (alloys as described above).

**Plain edge.** Rarity-5. Davis-87, AW-216 and 217, Judd-177, Taxay-EP200. Breen-1628 and 1629 (as listed in his *Encyclopedia*). Reported weights in grains: 69.3, 69.7, 69.8, 70, 70.0, 70.1, 70-1/2, 70.6, 70.7, 70.9, 70.98, 71. Diameters range from 0.891 to 0.892 inches. All seen have a 180° die alignment.

Auction prices realized • 1992: • \$2,860 • 2,300 • 1991: • \$880 • 1990: • \$1,540 • 660 • 1989: • \$1,225 • 575 • 1988: • \$1,250 • 1,100 • 860 • 1987: • \$1,155 • 1986: • \$4,675 • 1,540 • 1985: • \$935 • 1984: • \$1,925 • 1,210 • 935.



[figure 77]

**ONE CENT.** Obverse: An eagle flying to the left in plain



## Pattern and Experimental Issues of the United States Mint.

BY ROBT. COULTON DAVIS, PH.G.

In attempting a detailed description of the Pattern and Experimental Issues of the United States mint, I am well aware that I have assumed a task of no ordinary magnitude; but recognizing the want, felt among the American numismatic fraternity of an accurate list of the many trial pieces, and rejected designs produced in our national mint, I have yielded to a very generally expressed desire that I should make public such knowledge upon this subject as, during many years specially devoted to the formation of a collection of this interesting and highly important series of American issues, it has been my fortune to obtain.

After grave consideration, I have determined to arrange the list by date, and not as to denomination; believing that such an arrangement will be more convenient for reference, and more generally acceptable to numismatists, who may find it desirable to employ it as a guide. With the same end in view, I shall number the pieces continuously from the earliest mint issues down to those of the present day; always commencing with the lowest denomination of each year.

I shall deem it an especial favor on the part of collectors if they will promptly notify the COIN COLLECTORS' JOURNAL of any specimens of the pattern issues of our mint, not included in this arrangement. Each omission, if substantiated, will be published in an *addenda*, and duly credited to their respective owners, if so desired. Previous to the description of the coins themselves, I shall say a few brief words as to the establishment of our mint, soon to attain its centennial year.

The earliest consideration on the part of Congress looking toward the establishment of a mint, is to be found in the report of a committee, on Wednesday July 6, 1785, formed to deliberate on the question of a money unit, when it was resolved: First; "that the money unit of the United States of America be one dollar." Second; "that the smallest coin be of copper, of which 200 shall pass for one dollar." Third; "that the several pieces shall increase in a decimal ratio."

On the 8th of August, 1786, further action was taken, the names and weights of the coins specified, and the "Board of Treasury" ordered to report a draft of an ordinance for the establishment of a mint. This draft was presented on the 16th of October, 1786, and an "ordinance for the establishment of the mint of the the United States of America, and for regulating the value and alloy of coins" duly passed.

Six years were destined to elapse, however, before coining actually

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No. 72.—Quarter Eagle from the regular dies, struck in silver.

1852.

No. 73.—Obv. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, surrounding a circular perforation in the planchet, around which is a wavy line. Rev. Blank. "Ring" Half Dollar, gold. (Compare No. 77, which this piece exactly resembles with the exception of its smaller diameter, and the fact of possessing but half its weight).

No. 74.—Obv. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1852, surrounding a similar perforation in the planchet. Rev. DOLLAR above the perforation, a thick semi-circular wreath of laurel below. "Ring" Dollar. Metals: gold, silver, copper, nickel. Occurs upon thick and thin planchets.

No. 75.—Obv. The perforation as before. Above, U S A; below, 1852. Rev. A circle of laurel sprigs. "Ring" Dollar. Metals: gold, silver, nickel.

No. 76.—Obv. Same as last. Rev. Same as No. 74. "Ring" Dollar. Metals: gold, copper.

No. 77.—Obv. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, surrounding the perforation. Rev. Blank. "Ring" Dollar, gold. (Compare "Ring" Half Dollar. No. 73).



1853.

No. 78.—Obv. Head of Liberty to left surrounded by thirteen stars. Upon the coronet, LIBERTY. In ex., 1853. Rev. ONE | CENT within an olive wreath. Edge milled. Cent. Metals: nickel, alloyed with silver, nickel composition. Occurs on thick and thin planchets.

No. 79.—Obv. Blank. Rev. Same as last. Cent. Metals: nickel alloyed with copper, nickel alloyed with tin.



1854.

No. 80.—Obv. Head of Liberty left, without stars. Upon the coro-



net, LIBERTY. In ex., 1854. Rev. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Within a laurel wreath, ONE | CENT. Cent, copper.

No. 81.—Obv. An eagle flying to left, surrounded by thirteen stars. In ex., 1854. Rev. Same as last. Cent, copper.

No. 82.—Half Dime from the regular dies, struck in nickel.

No. 83.—Gold Dollar from the regular dies, struck in brass.

No. 84.—Quarter Eagle from the regular dies, struck in copper.

No. 85.—Three Dollars from the regular dies, struck in nickel.



### 1855.

No. 86.—Obv. An eagle flying to left surrounded by thirteen stars. In ex., 1855. Rev. Similar to No. 80, but with bolder and larger leaves in wreath. Cent. Metals: bronze, brass, copper, nickel and alloys of these metals. Occurs upon thick and thin planchets.

### 1856.

No. 87.—Half Cent from the regular dies, struck in nickel.

No. 88.—Obv. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1856. An eagle flying to left. Rev. ONE | CENT within a wreath of cotton, corn and tobacco. Cent, nickel. This is the much sought for 1856 nickel cent, a few of which passed into circulation.

No. 89.—Obv. Same as last. Rev. ONE | CENT within a wreath of oak tied at the base with a ribbon binding three arrows. Above, a small shield. Cent. Metals: nickel, copper.

No. 90.—Obv. Eagle flying to left, upon a plain field. Rev. ONE | CENT within an open wreath of cotton, corn and tobacco. Cent. Metals: copper, nickel.

No. 91.—Obv. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Eagle flying to left; no date. Rev. A wreath of cotton, corn and tobacco, as in last. "ONE CENT" omitted. Cent, nickel.

No. 92.—Gold dollar from the regular dies, of the year, struck in nickel and brass.

### 1857.

No. 93.—Obv. Head of Liberty surrounded by thirteen stars. In ex., 1857. Rev. ONE | CENT within an olive wreath. Of smaller size

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## A FRENCH TRADE DOLLAR.

THE French Government has coined a new dollar for circulation in Tonquin in the East. Specimens of the coin are to be seen in London, and it appears to be exactly the same as the Mexican dollar in weight, size, and fineness. The superscription, however, is different, and this it is which inspires the criticism, by those who know the Chinese, that the latter will reject it, and will say, "No wantee China side." It will be remembered that the United States formerly coined a trade dollar for circulation in the East; but its deficiency in fineness (371½ grains instead of 377½ grains) soon became apparent to the astute natives, and they reverted to the Mexican dollar, large quantities of which are still sent to China. It remains to be seen whether the dollar provided by the French Government will be more successful.

PATTERNS *vs.* FALSITIES.

IN the *Coin Collector's Journal* for July, 1885, Mr. Robert C. Davis of Philadelphia began a description of the "Pattern and Experimental Issues of the United States Mint," which has now reached the year 1873. It will, of course, be very useful, and probably more complete than if written by any other person. It is to be greatly regretted, however, that Mr. Davis did not tie himself down by much stricter rules than he has adopted; and particularly that he did not make separate classes of real pattern pieces, of trial pieces of dies, of doubtful pieces, of mules, and of whim-pieces, that is to say, impressions in false metals taken for no good reason from dies in actual use, or from old dies at the time of their general destruction at the mint. It is also to be regretted that in most cases the size is not mentioned. His list invites criticism; it will, we hope, appear in pamphlet form; and in that shape it would be very pleasant to greet the work with nothing but words of approval.

No. 9 has no right to a place in the list; its own inscription condemns it as a work of later date, even if its obverse die be of 1792.

Nos. 10 and 11 Mr. Davis himself says "were probably not intended as patterns for coinage, but for seals;" why then he includes them does not appear.

No. 12 deserves far longer notice than Mr. Davis gives it, and above all it deserves an illustration. If Mr. Davis has really a pattern mill or  $\frac{1}{10}$  of a cent of 1794, it is a treasure which should be duly emphasized. Can it be possible, however, that it is only the half-dime struck in copper? Or was the die rejected because of a wrong number of stars? Or is there a typographical error?

No. 15 is a curiosity. Shall we call it a mule? Certainly it is not a pattern, for no one in 1795 could have seriously suggested the use of the "half-disme" rev. of 1792, or have repeated the blunder of a die with 14 stars.

No. 16 is called a trial piece, but seems to be a mule, 1799.

No. 17 is at best only a trial piece of one die, 1800.

Nos. 18, 19 and 20 are only half-eagles in false metals, the third being also a mule, 1803, '04, '08.

No. 21 Mr. Davis calls a counterfeit, 1813.

No. 24 Mr. Davis calls a mule, 1818.

No. 25 has no right to a place, if Mr. Davis believes the statement he quotes, 1822.

Nos. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, are all impressions in false metals, that is, of less value than is named on the dies, which were all of regular issues, 1824, '25, '27, '30, '31.

Thus it seems that of the first thirty numbers only thirteen at most can possibly be called patterns. This brings us to 1836, when patterns really begin again.

No. 32 was certainly issued for circulation, 1836.

Nos. 34 and 36 are somewhat puzzling. It is often, if not generally, believed that the starless flying eagle reverse was prepared in 1838, and in the opinion of the writer these are simply mules.



No. 38 Mr. Davis says "was adopted as the regular coinage of the year" 1838. Why then does it appear in this list?

Nos. 39, 40, 43, 46, seem to be mules, 1838.

No. 48 is a mule of the worst kind, struck at least twenty years after the date on obverse die, 1838.

Nos. 54, 55, 56, 57, are all in false metals from regular dies, 1843, '44, '46.

No. 61 is a very ugly mule, 1849.

Nos. 67*a* and 68 are at best trial pieces of one die, 1850.

Nos. 71 and 72 are in false metal from regular dies, 1851.

No. 79 is only of one die, 1853.

Nos. 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, are all false metal, 1854, '56.

Nos. 90, 91 and 95 are absurdities, 1856, '57.

Nos. 92 and 96 are false metal, 1856, '57.

No. 97 is placed three years too early, 1857.

No. 106 is only of one die, 1858.

No. 111 is a "mule," says Mr. Davis, 1858.

Nos. 113, 115 and 116 are false metal, 1858.

No. 119 certainly seems to be the regular issue of the year, 1859.

Nos. 121 and 122 mean nothing, 1859.

Nos. 123 and 124 are called mules, but may easily pass for patterns, 1859.

Nos. 129, 130, 132, 133, 134, 135, are very ugly mules, 1859.

Nos. 136 and 137 are only of one die, 1859.

No. 138 is false metal, 1859.

Nos. 142 and 143 are called mules, but may be patterns, 1859.

Nos. 144, 147, 150, 170, are false metal, 1860, '61, '63.

No. 175 is an obvious mule, 1864.

Nos. 178, 180 and 181 are false metal, 1864.

No. 190 is an absurdity, 1865.

No. 193 is false metal, 1865.

Nos. 195, 200 and 206 must be the regular issue of the year, 1865.

Nos. 195, 197, 199, 200, 202, 203, 205, 206, 207, 209, 211, are false metal, 1865.

Nos. 232, 233, 234, 235, 239, 240, 241, 242, are false metal, 1866.

Nos. 236, 237 and 238 are mules, 1866.

No. 249 is only one die, 1867.

Nos. 253, 255, 256, 257, 258, are false metal, 1867.

No. 254 is a mule, 1867.

Nos. 259, 263, 264, 265, 268, 273, 274, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 286, 288, 291, are false metal, 1868, '69.

No. 325 seems to be a mule, 1870.

No. 341 and 342 are false metal, 1870.

This brings us to the end of 1870, and more than one-third of the numbers have been struck out as not being really patterns. It is indeed an ungracious task to be so severely critical, but certainly the eccentricities of the authorities of the United States Mint ought not to be treated with such consideration as Mr. Davis has shown them.

W. S. A.

### CURIOUS TREASURE TROVE.

SOME workmen were recently pulling down an old building in the town of Svendborg, on the Danish island of Funen, when they came upon a valuable treasure, which included ten bars of silver, and three thousand seven hundred and seventy-four silver and gold coins, all dating from the reign of the Danish King Eric of Pomerania, A. D. 1396-1412. The whole lay together buried in the basement, close to the foundation. It is singular that tradition for centuries has pointed to this house as a place where treasure had been buried, and the owner, when selling it a short time since, expressly reserved the right to any treasure which might be found on the premises.



pieces wearing exactly the look of the contemporary Arab dinars and dirhems, but proving, on investigation, to present entirely different inscriptions, besides something exhibiting a cross in the centre. In the place of Mohammed's eulogy, they record the Trinity and the Atonement; and the date from "the incarnation of our Lord the Messiah," instead of from the flight of the blessed prophet from Mecca. The new coinage was a success. In spite of its open avowal of Christian doctrines, it passed current among the Moslems, while it relieved the burdened consciences of the Crusaders, and soothed the scruples of the pope. By the favorable exertions of St. Louis and Innocent, the reformed sarracenate besant enjoyed a great commercial reputation, and long continued to be a generally accepted medium of exchange in Syria.

### SATIRICAL MEDALS.

IN an old book by Peter Seguin, of Paris, printed in 1665, and entitled *Selecta Numismata Antiqua ex Museo Petri Segvini, S. Germani Avtissiodorensis Paris, Decani, &c.*, p. 13, is an engraving of one of the pieces alluded to in the last number of the *Journal*, with legend *Qui ludit, &c.*, as follows: Obv. Youthful female bust to observer's right, her hair tied in a knot on the back of her head: on the left c and on the right s. Reverse, Inscription QVI LVDIT | ARRAM | DET QVOD | SATIS EST in four lines. Two *tali*—the bones used in playing—between the first two, and two more between the last two lines. Size 14, American scale. These *tali* were used sometimes, it is believed, as children now use stones, in the game of jackstones, and sometimes perhaps as shells are used, in playing "props."

Seguin considers the youthful head on this piece, which was bronze, (*aereo nummo*) to resemble one which "Fulvius Ursinus has shown in the Plaetorian family, under the name of *Sors*," and the letters C. S. he thinks, mean *Casum* and *Sortem*, and not, as some have suggested, *Senatus Consultum*. He quotes Cicero, *De Divinitate*, to show that these words are used by him as equivalent in meaning to *Fortuna*: that is, they signify very much the same as *luck* and *chance* in English; and in the passage cited there is a distinct reference to play with these bones. He seems to think Arra is the name of the game, and that the players in beginning it, were obliged to show a fixed sum of money which they were not allowed to take till the game was concluded, and that the piece itself was probably used very much as counters or "chips" now are.

M.

### WHAT BECOMES OF ALL THE PATTERN COINS.

THE law provides that specimens of all "patterns" struck at the Mint,—*i. e.* coins struck from dies different from those in use, as patterns for proposed new issues—should be presented to the various numismatic societies; but the Mint officials have always refused to execute it. The patterns, for example, of this year, were all distributed amongst members of Congress and friends of Mint officials, and were refused to societies, although seasonable application was made in at least one instance. This whole business of Mint patterns has been very singularly managed, and, to some extent, is so still. It has been estimated that in 1859 and 1860 fifty thousand dollars' worth of patterns were



struck and disposed of at the Mint, without any benefit to the Government at whose expense they were coined. Copies were not even put into the Government collection of its own coins, which is inferior, (except in Washingtons) to the most ordinary collections, while the officials, in whose charge it is, take no pains to fill its numerous gaps. During Mr. Lincoln's administration these abuses stopped, but of late years they have begun again. For example, numerous pattern dollars, struck between 1869 and 1874, have since then turned up and passed into the hands of collectors, none of which appear in the Government collection or were distributed in a lawful manner to numismatic societies, while favored individuals collected at a trifling expense sets which sold at large sums. Over \$100 apiece have been paid for some of these mysterious pieces. We notice in a late catalogue a medal described as a rarity which will no doubt bring a good price. The dies for it were made within two years at the Government Mint, by the Mint workmen, with the Mint machine, but none of the medals are in the Government collection, (or were a short time ago,) and none have appeared in the Mint sale-list or for distribution to numismatic societies. All this seems to show that laws for the distribution of Government favors are one thing, and their enforcement quite another.—*New York Nation*.

#### SALT CAKES AS CURRENT COINS.

THE step from precious metals to salt may seem, at first sight, a long one, but in parts of Yun-nan, salt cakes are as much current coins as are copper cash in the rest of the empire. Marco Polo tells us that in his day "Their (the natives') small change again was made up in this way. They have salt which they boil and set in a mold, (flat below and round above,) and every piece from the mold weighs about half a pound. Now, eighty molds of this salt are worth one saggio of fine gold, which is a weight so-called. So this salt serves them for small change." This statement, though vaguely put, is as accurately true now as it was then, with the exception that the molds of the present day weigh one hundred and thirteen pounds instead of half a pound.

The salt, in the first place, is drawn from the brine wells, and condensed in pans of the shape described by Marco Polo. Each cake is stamped with the government seal, and then either finds its way to the consumer, or for a time passes into circulation among the hill tribes and the Chinese in their neighborhood. Most of the wells are in the southern portion of the province, and it is only quite lately that silver has begun to take the place of salt in mercantile transactions in cities situated in the neighborhood of Poo-urhtoo and Scumaou.

The hill tribes attach great value to salt, and the chief aim of their constant raids on Chinese villages is to steal it. The Chinese in their turn use it as an instrument with which to plunder the hill tribes, who willingly exchange the commodities at their command, such as gold, musk and skins, at ruinous rates for the coveted necessity. It is almost needless to say that being thus valuable, salt does not escape the notice of the mandarins, apart from the imperial tax upon it; but, as it is comparatively cheap, the official difficulties it has to struggle against in its production are not so great as those which surround the various processes connected with gold, silver and copper.



RUSSIAN PLATINUM COINS. — In the last number of the *Journal*, in the article on Platinum Coins, (p. 29,) is a query as to the shields on the Russian eagle's wings, &c., borne on the Rouble described. In "Heraldry in History, Poetry and Romance," (London, Chapman & Hall, 1858,) by Ellen J. Millington, the six shields on the wings of the Russian Eagle, are said to be "the Arms of six great Russian States, — Kiev, Novgorod, Astracan, Siberia, Kazan, and Vladimir." This answers the question of your correspondent R. S. as to what the *shields* are: but the writer named above does not blazon them. The arms of Moscow, as displayed on the Eagle's breast, the author named gives as "a S. George's Cross." An article in the January number of the *Coin Collector's Journal* mentions a piece called the *Imperial*, struck by the Empress Elizabeth in 1755; on it are "a crown above a marten, the arms of Siberia." The arms of Astracan, on the same piece, are given as "two arrows saltire, surrounded by a crown, with two lion supporters." By this it will be seen that the description of the arms of Siberia and Astracan differs from that given by your correspondent. In 1831, says the same magazine, "The form of the eagle was changed, and it shows on its uplifted wings the six shields of Kazan, Astracan, Siberia, *Poland, Tauris and Finland.*" (half imperial.) I also find the same shields mentioned as being on a rouble struck in 1831, except that in naming them the two last are transposed. I think the eagle now bears *eight* shields on its wings.

W. T. R. M.

THE *Messenger du Midi* states that a small leaden bowl, filled with gold and silver coins, dating back to the time of Nero, Claudius and Vespasian, has just been found at Aurons, near Aix. Several are said to belong to a more ancient period of Roman history.

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## EDITORIAL.

THE statement that the dies, hubs, &c., of U. S. Coins, advertised for sale with the Mickley Collection, were seized by the United States authorities, has given rise to a great deal of comment. We have received from a gentleman in Philadelphia the following account of the affair.

A few days previous to the sale, the United States authorities claimed the above, viz: Some 20 obverse and reverse dies of the U. S. Coinage, mostly in a damaged and corroded condition, the same having been condemned by the Mint authorities above "half a century ago," and as tradition says was the custom in those days, "sold for old iron." Since then we have grown more *artful*, and it has been deemed politic under existing laws, that the whole multitude of dated dies should be annually destroyed in the presence of three designated officers of the Mint. In the above described lots in the catalogue, there was not a complete *pair* of obverse and reverse dies. Even the obverse die of the half-cent of 1811 was muled with the reverse die of a different year. We cannot conceive by what authority the government, after making sale of its "refuse material," could seize upon the same property without tendering some compensation. There is scarcely a numismatist in the United States, but who is aware of the existence and whereabouts of similar dies, and who is also aware of the many "re-strikes," — *known to be such*, — being made from the dies, say of the 1804 cent, the 1811 half-cent, and of the 1823 cent, *outside* of the Mint.

Philadelphia, December, 1878.

"COULTON."

From what we have seen in the public prints in reference to this matter, we infer that the government authorities were somewhat hasty in their action, and claimed the property without first satisfying themselves as to the ownership. No one would for a moment suspect Mr. Mickley of any wrong doing in the matter. The affair was settled, we believe, by a payment to the family of the estimated value of the dies, which were then presented to the Mint, and subsequently destroyed.

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## CURRENCY.

A HARD-MONEY enthusiast says, he never met a woman in his life that seemed to know anything about coins. He never Numismatics!

A RUSTIC youth of numismatic mind,  
While, buying "brummies" to increase his lot,  
Was asked if new or rare ones he did find.—  
Replied, with knowing wink, that "some" he'd got.  
"Mister." in confidential tones said he,  
"The luck I've had is such one rarely finds:  
I've one Varmount, one Novy Cesaree,  
And of Connecticuts I've got *both kinds.*"

C. C.



## THE STATUS OF PATTERN PIECES.

THE seizure of a number of Pattern Pieces by officers of the United States in March last, has caused considerable anxiety among the collectors of these interesting pieces. Inasmuch as the latest date on the patterns which the authorities claim were the property of the Government was 1883, while the earliest law forbidding the sale of these experimental issues was not enacted until 1887, the *Journal* has made no reference to the matter, believing that the officials of the Treasury Department, after an examination, would find that their action had been taken without a full knowledge of the case, and would order them to be returned. Up to the present time, so far as we are informed, this has not been done, and an action against Mr. J. W. Haseltine, who sold the patterns, is we believe still pending.

The history of the case, according to current reports, is briefly this:—In February, 1910, a parcel of Pattern pieces was sent by Mr. Haseltine, of Philadelphia, to Mr. James H. Manning, of Albany, N. Y., on approval. Before buying, he inquired of the Director of the Mint whether these were private property, and could be lawfully purchased. Mr. Haseltine is said to have a letter from the Director written in reply to Mr. Manning, in which it is claimed that these Patterns were still the property of the Government; whereupon Mr. Manning returned the pieces to Mr. Haseltine, and on March 24, the day they were delivered, they were seized by the Federal detectives. This is substantially the account of the affair as given in the "*Public Ledger*" of Philadelphia.

At the recent annual convention of the American Numismatic Association, a Resolution was offered and passed, expressing the hope that the Government, on a reconsideration of the case, would order their return. This Resolution is printed on another page of the *Journal*. In support of this Resolution, Mr. Adams addressed the Association, and his remarks are given below. The questions at issue are of more than ordinary importance to collectors, for it is well known that these experimental pieces are among the most eagerly sought of all the issues of the Mint. When we remember that their sale was permitted previously to the law of 1887 without objection or interference on the part of the Government, it is difficult to see on what grounds the authorities can base a claim to ownership of pieces struck twenty-seven years ago; it is also a well known fact that Pattern pieces have repeatedly been publicly sold in auctions of coins for many years, since the enactment of the statute cited, also without objection. It is evident that the sale was an established business, conducted under the auspices of the Mint, with prices fixed by its authorities. But not all the Patterns came directly from the Mint. The late Dr. Woodward, who frequently offered them in his sales, used to say that the Congressional Committees on Coinage were responsible for the appearance of quite a number of such pieces in the auction room or in the hands of collectors, and Mr. Adams confirms this. However this may be, the grounds on which the Government will attempt to defend its recent action, and the result, will be looked for by collectors of the Mint series with more than usual interest.

The case of Mr. Haseltine is the case of all numismatists, for this action by the Government authorities places in jeopardy their title to the possession of Pattern pieces representing a purchasing price of many thousand dollars, not to speak of the time and care taken in bringing them together. Even the title to the Pattern pieces now in the cabinets of this, our oldest and greatest society, is questioned by this action.

It is felt by those who have made a study of the Pattern series of the United States that if the Government authorities had been fully aware of the nature of these pieces, the manner of their issue, and the fact that some of them had been sold at the Mint



itself directly to collectors, their seizure would never have been made. For many years certain collectors have paid especial attention to the gathering of pattern and experimental pieces, and have bought them at open sales, which have been widely advertised and conducted in such a way that no one could possibly conceive that there was anything illegal in the buying or keeping of such pieces.

Pattern pieces embrace the most interesting of all the United States Mint issues, for they show not only the numerous adopted forms of the United States coinage, but also the many projected coinages, which for one reason or another were not adopted. These pieces range from the first patterns considered by the United States—the curious Mark, Quint, and Cent of Robert Morris, the financier of the American Revolution, dated 1783, and representing peculiar values, to the first of the half-dimes, dated 1792, or “disme,” as it is called, bearing on one side a portrait said to have been modeled after Martha Washington, and made from the private plate of George Washington, and distributed by the Father of His Country to his friends and colleagues, thus being the first United States official to give Pattern pieces a standing; and on to the curious cents of 1792, of various designs, submitted to those who had under consideration the first cent to be struck at the newly opened Mint at Philadelphia, when the coinage of the first minor coins was contemplated by our forefathers. All of these coins, strictly of the Pattern variety, are now held in high esteem by our collectors, through whose devotion to the series these curious examples have been preserved to us; then also the copper trial pieces of the first United States dollars of 1794, one showing the portrait of “Liberty” surrounded by thirteen stars, the other design omitting them. And then from that period down through all the years to the time when in 1887 or 1888 a law was passed which made it a misdemeanor to possess a Pattern piece of this country bearing a date subsequent to that year.

Collectors in their desire to own certain rare Pattern pieces have competed for them at the various sales until their enormous fictitious value has become widely known and has attracted much attention, and induced much adverse criticism by those who have not been acquainted with the facts concerning their production—who ask why it is that such extremely valuable coins have been permitted to escape from the Mint, without benefit to the Government. We will take the most recent of these instances as an example—the 1884 Trade dollar.

A year or so ago a number of 1884 Trade dollars were offered at private sale by a collector and brought very large premiums. The existence of the 1884 Trade dollar had been suspected by numismatists; but few, if any, collectors had actually seen a specimen up to last year. When the fact was clearly established that such coins did exist, and that they were in the possession of collectors, a good deal of criticism was engendered, and even the Mint came in for adverse comment regarding its so-called mismanagement.

Now all this criticism was based on ignorance of the facts, and if the persons who were responsible for it had referred to the report of the Director of the Mint for 1886 they would have found that the official report, printed and published for the use of anyone who desired a copy, showed that exactly 264 Trade dollars were struck in the year 1884. The sale of pieces not only was not prohibited by the Superintendents and



Directors of the Mint, but was actually encouraged. Correspondence can be shown between the Mint authorities and The American Numismatic Society in regard to devising the most advantageous plan for the disposal of Pattern pieces to individuals and societies, the result of which was that the Mint, under Dr. Linderman, sold such pieces to anyone who applied for them at a minimum price of \$3, even for those struck in base metals.

We will take the goloid metric patterns, dated 1879 and 1880. These pieces were ordered to be struck by the Congressional Coinage Committee, and any Congressman was entitled to a set at the cost price at the Mint, approximately \$6.50. To-day a proof 1879 gold stella alone commands a premium of \$100, and some of the rarer varieties are worth—to the collector—from \$500 up. It is the collector's desire to own these pieces that gives them value, and nothing else. The pieces are strictly experimental, made at the Mint to exploit a patented composition of gold, silver and copper, with weights and measurements based on the metric system, and issued under incontestable authority.

The Mint authorities were concerned only with the bullion value of these pieces, the bullion account being of vital importance, and even the Director of the Mint was compelled to pay the most trivial sum for Pattern pieces to be used for Governmental purposes, and this can be substantiated by a recorded charge of 70 cents against a Director of the Mint by the Coiner for the bullion value of a goloid dollar furnished by the Coiner to be used by the Director to show the Congressional Coinage Committee the style of the proposed coinage.

The Secretary of the United States Treasury at times has ordered sets of trial and experimental pieces to be used for various purposes. On October 22, 1863, a set of experimental pieces dated 1862 and 1863 was ordered by the Secretary of the Treasury to be given to Hon. George Opdyke, then Mayor of New York, which embraced half and quarter dollars in silver, and the series of gold coins struck in copper, all bearing the legend "In God We Trust," which was not adopted on the gold coins until 1866.

On December 28, 1877, the Acting Secretary of the Treasury authorized the production of the goloid series of pieces for the Congressional Coinage Committee, the value of the pieces to be reimbursed to the Mint.

On May 13, 1868, the Secretary of the Treasury authorized the striking at the Mint of four sets of the coinage of the United States, embracing all denominations from one cent to \$20, in aluminum, the Secretary bearing only the expense of the material.

It will thus be seen that there is no lack of instances to show that the making and issue from the Mint of Pattern and experimental and trial pieces in the regular and other metals was not an unusual thing, and was openly countenanced by the highest officials in the Treasury Department.

The question of the right of collectors to hold Pattern coins was raised at the sale of Dr. Linderman's collection in 1887, and the disposal of these pieces was temporarily stopped by the Government authorities. In 1888 the sale was permitted to proceed, with the omission of several unimportant lots. The fact that the matter of Pattern pieces had come to the attention of the Government, and had been passed upon, was regarded by collectors as giving proper title to the possession of all such pieces as were disposed of at that time, and this encouraged collectors to renew their interest in



the series, which has met no opposition from the Government from that day to this, although scores of sales have been held and Pattern pieces have been exploited and illustrated in the most striking manner.

If it were not for the interest taken by the collectors in the series there would not be preserved to-day a complete record of all the projected coinages of this country, which are not only interesting from historical association, but are extremely valuable for reference as a metallic record of the coin issues of the United States.

It is to be hoped that the Government authorities will not only recognize the right of collectors to possess Pattern pieces of all dates subsequent to 1908, but that it will take steps to secure them in possession of the pieces which they have bought in good faith and with entire innocence of any intention to possess property illegally, but actuated solely by a desire to own a metallic record of the National Coinage, and that it will also provide means by which collectors may in the future acquire at reasonable expense further additions to their pattern series, and that specimens of all future Patterns will be placed on sale at the Mint together with the proof sets, and to be governed by similar regulations.

#### CENTENNIAL MEDAL OF THE SOCIETA DI MINERVA OF TRIESTE.

By the thoughtful courtesy of Conte Francesco Sordina, of Trieste, Austria, The American Numismatic Society's cabinet has received the gift of a proof impression in bronze of the Centennial Medal of the Societa di Minerva of that city, an engraving of which appears in this issue of the *Journal*. (Plate 21.) In the words of the donor, this medal is "a token of the sympathy which exists between Italy and the Great Republic." The Minerva Society was founded on New-Year's Day, 1810, by the eminent scholar and historian Domenico Rossetti, and its aim has been to unite the learned societies of Trieste in an endeavor to maintain and uphold the best traditions of the literary and scientific culture of the Italian people. The dies of this fine medal were engraved by Stefano Johnson, of Milan, after designs by Cavaliere Giovanni Marin, of Trieste, a well-known sculptor of that city.

The obverse has a draped figure of Minerva seated at the left and holding a sprig of olive in her right hand; on a panel of her sedilla is a group of artisans at work, partly concealed by a palm-branch; advancing from the right is the Emperor Napoleon, in uniform, who offers her a scroll inscribed STATUTO | DELIA | SOCIETA | DI | MINERVA | TRIESTE. Behind him, at the right, is a group of three of his Generals, Murat, Bessieres, Duke of Istria, and Duroc, Duke of Friuli, typifying Provinces endeared to the citizens of Trieste by many ties of kinship and language. In the background, between the figures and the goddess, rises the famous Villa Murat, where the widow of the King of Naples resided until 1827, and where her sister Eliza Bacciochi died in 1820. In the exergue is the date \* MDCCCX \* with the name of the engraver near the edge on the left and that of the designer at the right, in very small letters.

Reverse, Within a close wreath of laurel is the inscription in ten lines: ALIA | SOCIETA DI MINERVA | NATA REGNANTE NAPOLEONE | DA UN SECOLO | BENEMERITA | DELLE SCIENZE E DELLE LETTERE | ITALIANE | OFFRONO I CITTADINI | TRIESTE | —



## Items to be checked

### A J N

DuBois Vol 17 p 56  
Vol 6 p 33

### Scrapbook

Slabaugh Vol 25, p 3250-51

### Numismatist

Zerbe V. 23 p 161 (1910)

Adams (on Gobrecht) v 22, p. 2 (1909)

Adams (patterns) v. 23 p. 210 (1910)

Clark v. 36 p 189

### Num Review

Vol 1 No 2 p. 24

Patterns of 1820s Vol 2 No 4 (1945) p 15

### Essay Proof Journal

Vol 4 No 1 (Fall 1983) p. 153-6 (collectors of patterns)

Crosby 1875

~~Scotts~~  
~~Old~~ Coin Collectors Journal  
v. 2 p 107, 120  
v. 22, p. 41

### Coin World

Julian: v. 29 No 1488 Oct 19, 1988



	DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	
	9/12/81	Michael Levin	Ret 10/5/81	Strobridge 1863
	"	"	Ret 10/5/81	Cogan (Lightbody) Dec 1866
	"	"	Ret 10/5/81	Elder (Mougey) 1910
	"	"	Ret 10/5/81	Bound group of Cogan, Strobridge 1863, 1863, 1863, 1863, 1863, 1863
	10/18/81	Michael Levin	Ret 11/11/81	Chapman Wilson Sale with plates
	10/18/81	Michael Levin	Ret 11/11/81	Chapman Smith Sale with plates
	9/12/81	Michael Levin	Ret 10/18/81	Numisma Vol II
	10/26/81	Peter Gaspar	Ret 1/25/82	Sellers on Mint
	11/5/81	Rita Burns	Ret 11/6/81	ANS Collection - Palestine
	11/16/81	Bernad Edison	11/19/81 Ret	Kosoff on dimes
	12/12/81	Michael Levin	Ret 12/7/82	Amer Numismatist (1886-7) 10 items
	12/12/81	Michael Levin	Ret 12/7/82	Steigerwalt magazines 22 pieces
1	1/18/82	Bernad Edison		Woodside Patterns 1892
2	"	"		Adams Wooden repr
3	"	"		Judd 1st Edition 1959
4	"	"		Green & Hewitt 1940
5	"	"		Curtis on Patterns for Scrapbook
6	"	"		Coin Collectors Journ Vol 10
7	"	"		Numism Valley monthly 1953
8	"	"		Curtis Pattern Handbook 1950 &
	2/20/82	Collins Hanson	Returned 2/22/82	Lyman Coll Catal 1913 8th Chapman



## 1853 (Cont.)

(Pieces listed as A-W 140, 141, 142 are die trials. See appendix A.)  
(There is no record of the piece listed as A-W 180. This was probably a misdescription of A-W 171.)

## 1854

James C. Booth, the Melter and Assayer, suggested to Mr. Snowden, the Director of the Mint, that cents could be made out of German silver in a size between the dime and the quarter and a little thicker than a dime. In submitting pieces for examination on January 17, 1854, he reported that these were prepared solely to show the size and the character of the metal, not the design. In fact the obverse die was prepared by a copying lathe from a silver dollar obverse.<sup>1</sup> This fact explains the concentric lines blurring the design of Liberty, the distortion of the stars and the incompleteness of the numerals in the date.

On April 3, 1854, Mr. Snowden proposed to the Secretary of the Treasury that the copper coins be reduced in weight. He had concluded that it was the government's stamp on the coins and not their intrinsic value that made them circulate. The bulk resulting from maintaining their intrinsic value was a hindrance to their use.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Snowden therefore directed the preparation of a cent weighing 100 grains in copper, and one of 96 grains in French bronze; copper 95%, tin 4%, zinc 1%.<sup>2</sup> These were struck using two obverse dies, the Liberty head and the flying eagle, and two reverse dies with different wreaths.

Mr. Booth reported that in an attempt to prevent the bronze pieces from tarnishing, more tin was added and this gave the pieces a golden color, "Oroide."<sup>3</sup> Restrikes were made, some with damaged dies.

**HALF CENT.** Regular dies trial piece.

155. Copper-nickel — P.E. (A-W 192) R.8.



**CENT.** Experimental piece. Obv. Liberty seated, thirteen stars, 1854. Rev. 1 CENT in a thick wreath of oak with acorns.

156. German silver (40% nickel, 40% copper, 20% zinc.) — R.E. (A-W 149) R.6.

157. German silver (30% nickel, 60% copper, 10% zinc.) — R.E. R.6.

158. Nickel 40%, copper 60% — R.E. R.6. (A-W 146) \$35.00.

159. Copper — P.E. (A-W 148) R.8. (Most of the plain edge copper pieces are electrotypes, made at the Mint by Du Bois in such a way that they have a clear ring when struck.) \$30.00.

(There is no record of the pieces listed as A-W 145 or A-W 147.)

<sup>1</sup>Letters, Mint & Branches, 1854. The National Archives. Washington, D. C.

<sup>2</sup>No. 114, Letters, Mint & Branches, 1854.

<sup>3</sup>No. 171, Letters, Mint & Branches, 1854.

#3

## 1854 (Cont.)



**CENT.** Obv. Head of Liberty wearing a diadem inscribed LIBERTY. Hair is knotted at the back and tied with a rope of pearls. Rev. by Franklin Peale. ONE CENT in a small laurel wreath.

160. Copper — P.E. (A-W 186) R.4. Weight 100 grains. \$2

161. Bronze — P.E. (A-W 187) R.5. Weight 96 grains. R. \$22.50.

162. Oroide — P.E. (A-W 188) R.7. \$30.00.



**CENT.** Obv. Eagle flying left surrounded by thirteen stars. Rev. in a small laurel wreath.

163. Copper — P.E. (A-W 189) R.4. Weight 100 grains. \$

164. Bronze — P.E. (A-W 190) R.5. Weight 96 grains. R. \$30.00.



**CENT.** Obv. Eagle flying left surrounded by thirteen stars. Rev. in a large laurel wreath.

165. Copper — P.E. (A-W 191) R.8. One in The Smithsonian another in Massachusetts Historical Society. A third reported.

**HALF DIME.** Regular dies trial piece.

166. Nickel — P.E. (A-W 185) R.7.

(The pieces listed as A-W 181 to 184 inclusive, have been found to be counterfeit.)



NT. Same as foregoing. Copper. R6.

NT. Same as foregoing. Pure nickel. R6.

NT. Same as foregoing. Copper-nickel. Reeded edge. Thicket. R6.

NT. Same as foregoing. White metal and pure nickel. edge. Thick planchet. R6.

NT. Same as foregoing. White metal and pure nickel. edge. Thin planchet. R6.

NT. Regular dies of the year. Pure nickel. R12.

1854.

THREE DOLLARS. Regular dies. Copper-nickel. R10.

THREE DOLLARS. Regular dies. Nickel. R10.

QUARTER EAGLE. Regular dies. Copper. R10.

DOLLAR. (Gold.) Regular dies. Brass. R13.

HALF DIME. Regular dies. Nickel. Plain edge. Thick. R13.



CENT. Liberty head. Small wreath. Copper. R2.

CENT. Same as foregoing. Bronze. R2.

CENT. Same as foregoing. Oroide. R2.

CENT. Flying eagle. Small wreath. Copper. R6.

CENT. Same as foregoing. Bronze. R6.



#2

191 CENT. Same ob. as foregoing. Rev. large wreath. Copper. R10.

192 HALF CENT. Regular dies. Copper-nickel. Unique. In the collection of William H. Woodin of New York City. R15.  
1855.

193 EAGLE. Regular dies. Copper. R12.

194 DOLLAR. (Gold.) With sixteen berries. Regular dies. Silver. R14.

195 CENT. Flying eagle. Rev. large wreath. Nickel. R6.

196 CENT. Same as foregoing. Brass. R13.

197 CENT. Same as foregoing. Copper. R2.

198 CENT. Same as foregoing. Dull steel. R15.

199 CENT. Same as foregoing. Copper-nickel. R6.

200 CENT. Same as foregoing. Bronze. R2.



201 CENT. Same ob. as foregoing. Rev. small wreath. Composition. R6.





NT. Same as foregoing. Copper. R6.

NT. Same as foregoing. Pure nickel. R6.

NT. Same as foregoing. Copper-nickel. Reeded edge. Thicket. R6.

NT. Same as foregoing. White metal and pure nickel. edge. Thick planchet. R6.

NT. Same as foregoing. White metal and pure nickel. edge. Thin planchet. R6.

NT. Regular dies of the year. Pure nickel. R12.

1854.

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# *A Suggested Type Set of Pattern*

#8

## *Half-Cents*

PERHAPS the words "type set" are misapplied to this denomination, since the set consists of a single specimen. This lone type and variety has only three A-W numbers, one of which represents a unique specimen, and the remaining two of which serve to distinguish an almost undetectable difference in metallic alloy. Nevertheless, sufficient quantities were struck to warrant inclusion in this series. Adams seems to be in error in his rarity rating of the two reasonably available numbers, 216 and 217. He gives each number a rating of "6" which indicates 36 to 50 pieces struck. It is the author's understanding, however, that a total of forty pieces were struck, half of which were in each alloy.



This type could perhaps be called an "experimental piece" as well as a "pattern." With the exception of the unique A-W 192 of 1854, the pieces were all struck in 1856 to try out the new copper-nickel alloy contemplated for the famous "Flying Eagle Cents" of 1856-58. Regular half-cent dies of the year were used. However the edge of the obverse die was left slightly fuller than usual, resulting in an odd, concave surface where the edge and the field joined. The flying eagle cents of 1856 (patterns, by the way) were struck shortly afterwards from planchets cut from the same strips of metal used to furnish planchets for the A-W 217 half-cent. It is believed that the unique A-W 192 was struck from 1854 dies at the time of striking the flying eagle cents, using a left-over planchet from the previous 1856 half-cent pattern striking. This, however, is uncertain.

A specimen of this type may be secured under A-W numbers 216 or 217.

### APPROXIMATE COST

It is very difficult to establish a price for this type. The two pieces most recently sold, changed hands under circumstances that do not adequately reflect a stable price. It is believed that \$25.00 could be considered the best estimate at this time.



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REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*The report of the Director of the Mint.*

FEBRUARY 9, 1855.—Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

*To the House of Representatives:*

I transmit herewith the report of the Director of the mint, showing the operations of the mint and its branches for the past year.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, *February 8, 1855.*

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Philadelphia, January 30, 1855.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report, in compliance with the first section of the mint law, which requires that, "in the month of January of every year the Director shall make report to the President of the United States of the operations of the mint, and its branches, for the year preceding."

There are obvious reasons in favor of a change in the law above referred to, so as to require the report of the Director to be made as soon as convenient after the close of the fiscal year, and that it should exhibit the operations of the mint, its branches, and the assay office, during the fiscal instead of the common year. I beg to recommend this modification of the law to your favorable notice.

The deposits received and coinage executed at the principal mint, (Philadelphia,) during the year 1854, were as follows: Gold deposits received, \$36,269,388 68; gold coins struck, \$20,049,799; fine gold bars, \$17,643,270 58. Silver deposits, including the silver parted from California gold, and the silver purchased pursuant to the act of 3d March, 1853, \$4,480,741 14; silver coinage executed was, \$5,373,270; the copper coinage, \$42,638 35. Total deposits of gold and silver during the year, \$40,750,129 82; and the total coin-



age, including the fine gold bars, was \$43,108,977 93; this coinage was comprised in 33,919,921 pieces.

The deposits of gold received at the branch mint at New Orleans during the year were of the value of \$1,139,135 43; and the deposits of silver, including silver parted from the California gold, and the amount purchased, were of the value of \$1,311,703 56. The gold coinage amounted to \$1,274,500; the silver coinage to \$3,246,000; aggregate deposits of gold and silver, \$2,450,838 99; total coinage of gold and silver, \$4,520,500, comprised in 10,332,750 pieces. The coinage exceeds the deposits in consequence of this branch having a large amount of bullion remaining from the deposits of the previous year; and this remark applies also, to some extent, to the mint and the other branches.

The deposits at the branch mint at Dahlonega, in gold, were of the value of \$281,932 06, including silver parted therefrom, of the value of \$1,706 61. The coinage (gold) amounted to \$292,760, comprised in 62,228 pieces.

The deposits of gold received at the branch mint at Charlotte, were of the value of \$213,606 21; the coinage executed amounted to \$214,652 50, comprised in 46,578 pieces.

The last year has been marked by the establishment of an additional branch mint and an assay office. The former, at San Francisco, in California, commenced receiving deposits on the 3d of April last, from which time to the end of the year it has received deposits to the value of \$10,404,560. The coinage thereat during the same period amounted to the sum of \$4,084,207; and the manufacture of fine bars of the value of \$5,863 16; and of unparted bars, prepared, assayed, and stamped, to the value of \$5,641,504 05—making a total of \$9,731,574 21. There were some causes connected with the supply of materials, particularly of the article of parting acid, which has to be manufactured at San Francisco, that retarded and diminished the coinage operations of this branch of the mint during the last year. Every effort has been made to remove these causes, and I have reason to believe that its operations will hereafter be greatly increased.

The assay office, at New York, commenced operations on the 10th of October last. The deposits received up to the end of the year amounted to \$9,337,200 69, of which amount \$76,307 was in silver, principally parted from California gold. The amount of fine bars prepared, assayed, and stamped at that office, during this period, was \$2,888,039 18; and the further sum of \$1,050,000, in fine bars, was transmitted from the mint at Philadelphia, and paid out at that office during the commencement of its operations. Of the amount received, the sum of \$6,362,565 57 was deposited for coins. This last amount, pursuant to the 11th section of the assay office law, was transferred to the mint of the United States for coinage.

In stating the aggregate deposits of gold at all the mints and the assay office, a deduction must be made for unparted bars prepared at San Francisco, and afterwards deposited at the mint and the assay office for coin or fine bars; and also of the amount received at New York for coinage and afterwards transferred to the mint. Making

this allowance as well as it can be ascertained from the reports of the several institutions, the entire deposits of the year in gold were \$49,987,222 23; silver deposits, including silver purchases, \$5,871,759 82; total gold and silver deposits, \$55,858,982 05. The coinage for the same period was as follows: Gold coins, including bars, \$52,094,595 47; silver coins, \$8,619,270; copper coins, \$42,638 35; total coinage \$60,756,503 82, comprised in 44,645,011 pieces.

The amount of gold of domestic production received at the several mints and the assay office during the year was \$49,217,021; of which sum \$48,892,794 was from California; the remaining part from the Atlantic States, except a few deposits from the Territory of New Mexico. There was desposited during the year at the principal mint and the branch at New Orleans, gold from Australia to the value of \$432,000.

The silver contained in the gold from California is not included in the statement of the amount of the gold deposits from that State. It is separated from the gold in preparing the latter for coinage, or for manufacturing fine bars. The value of the silver thus parted from the gold during the year was \$328,198 83. This does not include the amount of silver purchased for coinage pursuant to the act of March 3, 1853. During the last year the sum purchased was \$5,494,839 92, and the silver coins issued amounted to \$8,619,270. The sum issued of silver coins at the reduced standard weight, authorized by the act before mentioned, is as follows: In 1853, \$8,654,161; in 1854, \$8,619,270; making a total of \$17,273,431 of the half-dollar and lower denominations struck, distributed, and put into circulation, except the sum of \$584,808 33 in the treasury of the mint, and ready for distribution and circulation.

In my last report, I presented some views showing the propriety of the reduction in the standard weight of the silver coinage, and the beneficial results which had attended it. We have continued to experience such results, especially in those more favored portions of the United States where the circulation of small notes is prohibited. The soundness of the apprehension expressed in my last report, that the reduction in the standard weight of the silver coins might prove insufficient, has been confirmed by the quoted value of silver during the past year at London, the market of which city regulates its commercial value. We purchased silver at the close of 1853 at 121 cents per standard ounce, and issued it at 125 cents, in accordance with the law before referred to; but as it continued to appreciate, we were obliged to offer 122½ cents per ounce, in order to obtain silver for coinage. Continuing to appreciate, it attained its maximum in November last (1854,) when it was quoted at 123¾ cents per ounce. It has since fallen to about 122¼. An appreciation of 1½ cents per ounce above the quotation of November would have rendered it fully equal in value to that of our present issue; and it is highly probable that a still further appreciation, however slight, would have induced the expectation of our new silver coin, and rendered a further reduction in its weight necessary. Fortunately, no such reduction is required; and we have reason to believe that the standard weight as fixed by the act of March 3, 1853, was well chosen. That the reasons presented in



my last report why no great or sudden changes need be apprehended in the relative value of gold and silver are well founded, the continued influx of gold from California and Australia, compared with the slight changes in the relative value of the two metals during the past year, abundantly proves.

The three-dollar coin, authorized by the last Congress, was issued from the mint in May last; since which time there have been struck of this coin, in value, the sum of \$415,854 at the principal mint, and \$75,360 at the branches. The demand for it has not been great, owing, perhaps, to the fact that it does not harmonize with the decimal system, or the division by halves and quarters, to which the people have been so long accustomed.

The devices of the gold dollar have been changed, so as to correspond with those prepared for the three-dollar piece, viz: on the *obverse*, an ideal head, emblematic of America, enclosed within the national legend; and on the *reverse*, a wreath composed of wheat, cotton, corn, and tobacco, enclosing the denomination and date of the coin. The size has been increased one-tenth of an inch, which renders the coin more easily handled, and, therefore, more convenient for circulation. The weight and standard value are, of course, unchanged.

The act of March 3, 1853, required the three-cent piece to be of standard fineness ( $\frac{9}{10}$ ths,) instead of  $\frac{7}{8}$ ths, as directed by the law which authorized their issue. The new coin is distinguished from the former by having a sprig of laurel and a bundle of arrows on the *reverse*.

The coinage charge of the half of one per cent., authorized by the act of February 21, 1853, is as follows:

Mint at Philadelphia .....	\$104,853 32
Branch mint at New Orleans.....	6,372 50
Branch mint at Dahlonega.....	1,463 80
Branch mint at Charlotte.....	1,073 26
Branch mint at San Francisco.....	20,421 03

Total at all the mints for the year 1854 ..... 134,183 91

These sums will be paid into the treasury of the United States pursuant to the sixth section of the act before referred to.

The increased price paid for silver bullion for coinage after the first of July last, has diminished the profit to the government on the silver coinage, the cost of distribution being also a charge upon the same; there will, however, be a balance at the principal mint of about \$108,000, to be transferred to the treasury of the United States.

The propriety of the establishment at the mint of a medal department is respectfully suggested, and as a convenient mode of bringing the subject to your notice, I attach to this report a copy of my letter of the 5th of April last to the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to it. Since the date of that communication, the importance of having some legislation on the subject has been further exhibited by the increased applications from cities, institutes, and societies, to strike medals at the mint. I have also received communications from the

historical societies of several of the States in relation to the subject of striking copies of the various historical medals heretofore ordered by the government. The dies of nearly all of these medals are in the mint. To provide for the striking of copies of them in bronze or other metals, and supplying them to our various national and State institutions, is one of the objects embraced in the project of a law which accompanies the letter above mentioned. I may add that a few of the dies are in the museum of the mint at Paris, among which is that of Washington before Boston, and General Green at Eutaw Springs. It is probable that on application to the French government these dies could be recovered.

A change in the copper coinage seems desirable, with a view to the substitution of a lighter and more convenient coin for the cumbrous cent now used. As I have recently presented my views upon this subject in a report to the Treasury Department, I have deemed it proper to append to this report a copy of that communication.

I also annex to this report several tabular statements exhibiting in detail the operations of the mint and its branches, and presenting some other statistics relating to the subject of coinage, the purchase of silver, and the domestic production of the precious metals.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your faithful servant,  
JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,

*Director of the U. S. Mints.*

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

No. 1.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Philadelphia, April 5, 1854.*

SIR: Being invited by your favor of the 18th ultimo, in reply to the suggestions contained in my letter of a previous date, I present a few additional remarks in relation to the propriety of establishing a medal department in the mint.

No provision by law has heretofore been made for the preservation of the dies from which medals were ordered to be struck, nor for taking or preserving copies of them. In fact the dies have, by some of the recipients of the honor of a public medal, been regarded as their property, and not that of the government. But through the personal efforts of some of the officers of the mint, assisted and encouraged by several of the Secretaries of the Treasury, most of the dies have been retained or recovered, and they are now in the custody of the chief coiner of the mint.

I present herewith a copy of the proceedings of the Pennsylvania Historical Society on the subject under consideration, together with a list of the dies now in the mint. The list embraces sixty-eight in number, including the Presidential medals. Some others, which were made in France, among which is that of Washington before Boston, and General Green at Eutaw, are now in the mint museum at Paris. A few are supposed to be lost; but, by renewed efforts,



might possibly be regained. But as it requires great care in their preservation, they are, no doubt, if in existence, greatly injured, and perhaps defaced.

It seems proper that the government should take charge of this important subject, by establishing a medal department connected with the mint, provision to be made for taking copies in bronze of the dies preserved in the mint, as well as those which may hereafter be ordered. It would seem appropriate that each State, or the Historical Society of each State, should be supplied with such copies; and other copies in gold, silver, and bronze should be struck and disposed of under such general regulations as the Director of the mint, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, might prescribe. Such an enactment, in addition to the public objects secured, would relieve us from the embarrassment which attends the present system of striking medals in the mint, in relation to which I had the honor to present some objections in my letter of the 30th of August last. I repeat here, that the striking of medals at the mint ought not to be the source of profit or gain to any officer or workman engaged therein, but should be performed under the official salary or per diem compensation which they receive.

I herewith enclose a projet of a law, which I present to your consideration.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your faithful servant,  
JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN, *Director*.

Hon. JAMES GUTHRIE,  
*Secretary of the Treasury, Washington City.*

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

PHILADELPHIA, *February 27, 1854.*

The matter of a communication addressed by the secretaries and librarian to Hon. J. Ross Snowden, Director of the United States mint, containing inquiries and a request concerning the national medals, coming up for discussion—

Mr. Snowden said, it gave him much pleasure that this subject had been brought to the attention of the society. National and public medals are important monuments of history, and their preservation is well worthy the attention of this society, and others of similar character in the United States. Most of the gold and silver medals, either from reverse of fortune or from some other cause, find their way to the melting-pot. It would be a higher compliment to the recipients of the honorable distinction in question, if Congress should authorize copies in bronze to be struck and presented to each Historical Society in the United States. Heretofore no legal provision has been made for the preservation of such copies, or the taking care of the dies from which the medals were struck. Fortunately, however, most of the dies heretofore made have been procured and preserved at the mint of the United States. Some of them were procured with much difficulty.

Mr. Snowden's belief was, that nearly sixty medals of a national and public character have been made, of which the dies of all but five or six are at the mint in this city. A full set of copies in bronze would cost about one hundred and forty dollars. A small appropriation by Congress would supply each State in the Union with a set; and hereafter when medals are voted, provision could be made for supplying copies, to be distributed in the manner proposed.

On motion, it was

*Resolved*, That Hon. J. Ross Snowden be requested to correspond with the Secretary of the Treasury, or take such other measures as may seem to him advisable, to effect the objects developed in his remarks on the distribution of the national medals.

Extracted from the minutes.

[ L. S. ]

THOMAS BIDDLE, JR.,  
*Recording Secretary.*

#### *List of Dies of National Medals, preserved at the Mint of the United States.*

1. *Horatio Gates*.—Obverse: Horatio Gates duci strenuo; Comitia Americana. Reverse: Salus regionum septentrional, hoste ad Saratogam, in dedition. accepto. Die XVII Oct. MDCLXXVII.

2. *Daniel Morgan*.—Obverse: Danieli Morgan duci exercitus; Comitia Americana. Reverse: Victoria libertatis vindex. Fugatis aut captis caesis ad Cowpens hostibus. XVII Jan. MDCLXXXI.

3. *Isaac Hull*.—Obverse: Peritos arte superat Jul. MDCCCXII, Aug. certamine fortes. Isaacus Hull. Reverse: Horæ momento victoria. Inter Const. Nav. Amer. et Guer. Angl.

4. *Jacob Jones*.—Obverse: Jacobus Jones virtus in ardua tendit. Reverse: Victoriam hosti majori celerrime rapuit. Inter Wasp Nav. Ameri. et Frolic Nav. Ang. Die XVII Oct. MDCCCXII.

5. *Stephan Decatur*.—Obverse: Stephanus Decatur, Navarchus, pugnis pluribus, victor. Reverse: Occidit signum hostile sidera surgunt. Inter Sta. Uni. Nav. Ameri. et Macedo. Nav. Ang. Die xxv Octobris MDCCCXII.

6. *William Bainbridge*.—Obverse: Gulielmus Bainbridge patria victisque laudatus. Reverse: Pugnando. Inter Const. Nav. Ameri. et Jav. Nav. Angl. Die XXIX Decem. MDCCCXII.

7. *Oliver H. Perry*.—Obverse: Oliverus H. Perry princeps stagno Eriense—classim totam contudit. Reverse: Viam invenit virtus aut facit. Inter class. Ameri. et Brit. Die x Sept. MDCCCXIII.

8. *Oliver Hazard Perry*.—Obverse: Oliverus Hazard Perry pro Patria vicit; presented by the government of Pennsylvania. 1st reverse: "We have met the enemy, and they are ours."—Perry. To ——. In testimony of his patriotism and bravery in the naval action on Lake Erie, September 10, 1813. 2d reverse: "We have met the enemy, and they are ours." British fleet on Lake Erie captured September 10, 1813.



9. *Jesse D. Elliott*.—Obverse: Jesse D, Elliott nil actum reputans si quid supereset agendum. Reverse: (Same as Perry die, No. 7.)

10. *W. Burrows*.—Obverse: Victoriā tibi claram, Patriæ mæstam—W. Burrows. Reverse: Vivere sat vincere. Inter Enterprise Nav. Ameri. et Boxer Nav. Brit. Die iv Sept. MDCCCXIII.

11. *Edward R. McCall*.—Obverse: Edward R. McCall, navis enterprise præfectus—sic itur ad astra. Reverse: (Same as of die No. 10.)

12. *James Lawrence*.—Obverse: Jac. Lawrence, dulce et decorum est pro Patria mori. Reverse: Mansuetud. maj. quam victoria. Inter Hornet Nav. Ameri. et Peacock Nav. Ang. Die xxiv Feb. MDCCCXIII.

13. *Thomas Macdonough*.—Obverse: Tho. Macdonough, stagno Champlain clas. reg. Brit. Superavit. Reverse: Uno latere percusso alterum impavide vertit. Inter class. Ameri. et Brit. Die xi Sept. MDCCCXIII.

14. *Robert Henley*.—Obverse: Rob. Henley, Eagle præfect. palma virtū, peræternit, florebit. Reverse: (Same as of die No. 13.)

15. *Stephen Cassin*.—Obverse: Step. Cassin, Ticonderoga præfect. quæ regio in terris nos, non plena lab. Reverse: (Same as of die No. 13.)

16. *L. Warrington*.—Obverse: Ludovicus Warrington, Dux Navilis Amer. Reverse: Pro patria paratus aut vincere aut mori. Inter Peacock Nav. Ameri. et Epervie Nav. Ang. Die xxix Mar. MDCCCXIV.

17. *Johnston Blakeley*.—Obverse: Johnston Blakeley, Reip Fæd. Am. Nav. Wasp Dux. Reverse: Eheu! Bis victor patria tua te luget plauditq. Inter Wasp Nav. Ameri. et Reindeer Nav. Ang. Die xxvii Junius MDCCCXIV.

18. *Charles Stewart*.—Obverse: Carolus Stewart, Navis Amer. Constitution Dux. Reverse: Una victoriā eripuit ratibus binis. Inter Constitu. Nav. Ameri. et Levant et Cyane, Nav. Ang. Die xx Febr. MDCCCXV.

19. *Winfield Scott*.—Obverse: Major General Winfield Scott. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814: Battles of Chippewa, July 5, 1814; Niagara, July 25, 1814.

20. *James Miller*.—Obverse: Brigadier General James Miller. "I'll try." Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814: Battles of Chippewa, July 5, 1814; Niagara, July 25, 1814; Erie, September 17, 1814.

21. *Edmund P. Gaines*.—Obverse: Major General Edmund P. Gaines. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814: Battle of Erie, August 15, 1814.

22. *Peter B. Porter*.—Obverse: Major General Peter B. Porter. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814: Battles of Chippewa, July 5, 1814; Niagara, July 25, 1814; Erie, September 17, 1814.

23. *Jacob Brown*.—Obverse: Major General Jacob Brown. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814: Battles of Chippewa, July 5, 1814; Niagara, July 25, 1814; Erie, September 17, 1814.

24. *Eleazer W. Ripley*.—Obverse: Brigadier General Eleazer W. Ripley. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814: Bat-

ties of Chippewa, July 5, 1814; Niagara, July 25, 1814; Erie, September 17, 1814.

25. *Alexander Macomb*.—Obverse: Major General Alexander Macomb. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, November 3, 1814: Battle of Plattsburgh, September 11, 1814.

26. *James Biddle*.—Obverse: The Congress of the U. S. to Capt. James Biddle for his gallantry, good conduct, and services. Reverse: Capture of the British ship Penguin by the U. S. ship Hornet, off Tristan D'Acunha, March xxiii, MDCCCXV.

27. *Andrew Jackson*.—Obverse: Major General Andrew Jackson. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, February 27, 1815. Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815.

28. *Isaac Shelby*.—Obverse: Governor Isaac Shelby. Reverse: Battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813: Resolution of Congress, April 4, 1818.

29. *William H. Harrison*.—Obverse: Major General William H. Harrison. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, April 4, 1818: Battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813.

30. *George Croghan*.—Obverse: Presented by Congress to Colonel George Croghan, 1835. Reverse: Pars magna fuit: Sandusky, 2 August, 1813.

62. *Zachary Taylor*.—Obverse: Major General Zachary Taylor. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, March 2d, 1847: Monterey, September, 1848.

63. *Zachary Taylor*.—Obverse: Major General Zachary Taylor. Reverse: Resolution of Congress, July 16th, 1846: Palo Alto, May 8th, 1846; Resaca de la Palma, May 9th, 1846.

64. *Zachary Taylor*.—Obverse: Major General Zachary Taylor. Resolution of Congress, May 9, 1848. Reverse: Buena Vista, Feb. 22 and 23, 1847.

65. *Winfield Scott*.—Obverse: Major General Winfield Scott. Resolution of Congress, March 9th, 1848. Reverse: Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Contreras, San Antonio, and Churubusco, Molino del Rey, Chapultepec, city of Mexico.

66. *Winfield Scott*.—Obverse: Winfield Scott. The commonwealth of Virginia presents this medal to Major General Winfield Scott, as a memorial of her admiration for the great and distinguished services of her son whilst Commander-in-chief of the American armies in the war with Mexico, 1847. Reverse: Fecit quod cogitavit. From Virginia.

67. "*Bache Medal*."—Obverse: The Treasury Department of the United States. Coast Survey to ———. Reverse: For gallantry and humanity, Dec., 1848.

68. "*Somers medal*."—Obverse: Somers Navis Americana. Ante Vera Cruz, Dec. 10th, 1846. Reverse: Pro vitis Americanorum conservatis.

69. Obverse: G. Washington, Pres. Unit. Sta. Reverse: Commiss. resigned; Presidency relinq., 1797.

70. *Henry Lee*.—Obverse: Henrico Lee, legionis Equit Præfecto. Comitia Americana. Reverse: (Not in the mint.)

71. Obverse: Let us look to the Most High, who blessed our fathers



with peace; 1757. Reverse: Kittanning destroyed by Col. Armstrong, September 3, 1756.

58. *Thomas Truxton*.—Obverse: Bust of Capt. Truxton. No inscription. Reverse: By vote of Congress to Thomas Truxton, 24 Mar., 1800. (This medal was presented for revolutionary services.)

*Indian Medal Dies.*

Obverse: Containing name and date of inauguration of the President. Reverse: The inscription "Friendship and Peace" over joined hands, or tomahawk and pipe.

31, 32, 33. *Thomas Jefferson*.—Three sizes.

34, 35, 36. *James Madison*.—Three sizes.

37, 38, 39. *James Monroe*.—Three sizes.

40, 41, 42. *John Quincy Adams*.—Three sizes.

43, 44, 45. *Andrew Jackson*.—Three sizes.

46, 47, 48. *Martin Van Buren*.—Three sizes.

49, 50, 51. *John Tyler*.—Three sizes.

52, 53, 54. *James K. Polk*.—Three sizes.

55, 56, 57. *New Reverses*.—Three sizes.

59, 60, 61. *Zachary Taylor*.—Three sizes.

*Project of a law to establish a Medal Department in the mint.*

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, &c.*, That there shall be established at the mint of the United States a medal department, to be under the direction and control of the Director of the mint; but the Director may designate such officer or person as he may deem proper to have the immediate charge of the same, under his direction, and he may employ such workmen as he may deem necessary.

SEC. 2. Medals of gold, silver, and bronze may be struck for any department of the government, for any State or society, or person or persons, under such general regulations as the Director of the mint, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, may prescribe.

SEC. 3. The machinery of the mint, not otherwise employed, and applicable to the purposes of this department, may be so applied under such restrictions as the general operations require, at the discretion of the Director.

SEC. 4. An account of the receipts and expenditures of this department shall be kept by such person, and in such manner, as the Director may prescribe, an abstract of which shall be quarterly transmitted to the Treasury Department; the profits which may accrue therefrom shall be applied to the enlargement of the cabinet of medals and coins at the mint, and for supplying national and scientific institutions with copies of the public medals.

No. 2.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Philadelphia, December 13, 1854.

SIR: In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 11th instant, I have caused to be struck, and herewith forward, one hundred specimens of the proposed cent therein referred to; and have the honor now to recapitulate the various points of information on that subject which have heretofore been communicated to the department. In so doing, it will, perhaps, best subserve the wishes of the department, and of the committees in Congress, if I should present the project of a law, in several sections, with explanatory remarks appended to each section.

AN ACT relating to the coinage of cents.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, &c.*, That from and after the passage of this act, the standard weight of the cent coined at the mint of the United States shall be ninety-six grains, or two-tenths of one ounce troy, with no greater deviation than four grains in a single piece; and that the coinage of the half-cent shall cease.

*Remarks.*—The present weight of the cent is 168 grains; at the current price of copper, the government is barely saved from loss by the coinage, and is every day liable to become an actual loser. Yet the experience of every country has settled this point, that the lowest denominations of coin are not made acceptable on account of their market value, but on account of the government stamp, and the convenience of having such pieces for small transactions. For the proposed reduction of the weight of the cent, we have abundant precedents. In 1792 the legal weight was 264 grains; early in 1793 it was reduced to 208 grains; in 1796, in pursuance of legal authorization, President Washington issued a proclamation reducing the cent to 168 grains—the present legal standard. In France, at this day, the piece of ten centimes—say two cents of our money—weighs less than our cent, yet it passes freely. Dealers all over the country will feel obliged for such an unloading of copper as the change from 168 to 96 grains would produce. The allowance of four grains for deviation is a customary "remedy of the mint," and is necessary for practical operations. The omission of the half-cent scarcely needs a remark. It is useless. People will not take the trouble to make a cent with two pieces of money.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That the said cent shall be composed of copper, with any admixture, not exceeding five per cent. in weight, of metals which may render it more suitable for the purposes of coin. And the devices upon said cent shall express its country, denomination, and date of coinage.

*Remarks.*—In regard to the various experiments recently made here, as to the desirableness of introducing a german-silver cent, I presume it will not be necessary here to recapitulate the correspondence which is already in the possession of the department, and which, I presume, will be laid before the committee in Congress to whom it



is your desire to refer this subject. A decided preference for the copper coin, if its weight can be reduced to 96 grains, is the conclusion to which my mind is brought, after a careful consideration of the advantages and objections on both sides. The allowance of five per cent. for the admixture of other metals—tin and zinc being intended—is to make an alloy which will improve the color and reduce the liability to corrosion and foulness. It is the same mixture which the French are using for coinage, under the name of bronze, but I have avoided that term as being vaguely applied among us to very different metallic mixtures and colorings.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall be at the discretion of the Director of the mint, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, to cause the planchets for the cent coinage to be prepared at a private manufactory, as hitherto prescribed by law, or more directly under the supervision of the Director, or such officer of the mint as he may designate. And the profits arising from the sale and distribution of said coinage, after deducting expenses of transportation as provided for in the 36th section of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, relative to the mint, shall be paid, from time to time, into the treasury of the United States.

*Remarks.*—It seems quite obvious that the mint ought not to be compelled, as it now is by law, to procure its copper planchets for coinage from a private or remote manufactory, and especially if the planchets are to be alloyed to a definite per-centage. This section will only confer the *choice* upon the Director, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, of having this business done under his own direction. It is not intended to find any fault with the present manufacture of planchets, which, in fact, is quite satisfactory.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall be at the discretion of the Director of the mint, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, at any period not earlier than one year after the passage of this act, and upon due public notice, to exchange the cents provided for by this act for those now current, upon such terms as may insure a sufficient supply of copper from that source, and with a view to the gradual withdrawal of the old coins from circulation. But no other copper coins or tokens shall be so received.

*Remarks.*—The impolicy and incongruity of having two cents, of quite different weights, current at the same time, suggests the propriety of conferring this discretionary power. The coinage of cents and half-cents, up to May last, amounted, in round numbers, to \$1,520,000—equal to, say 1,620 tons—the larger part of which are probably now in circulation; and it is well known that some parts of the country are crowded with them. On this subject we have frequent complaints, without the power of providing a remedy. The proposed cent of 96 grains, assuming the planchets to cost  $41\frac{2}{3}$  cents a pound, avoirdupois, would afford a profit of 43 per cent. The new bronze coinage of France, assuming the same cost of planchets, yields a profit of 54 per cent. We are, therefore, within the line of safe precedent, considering that the French coin passes freely. But in addition to this, it should be noted, that much of the importance of the new cent project consists in relieving the country from the present ponderous

cent; and if it will require, as is probable, 50 cents a pound to get in the old cents, and a considerable per-centage for working them up into new planchets, the profit, as above stated, will be considerably diminished; so much so as to obviate objection on that score. It is quite important to keep in view the *two* objects of the law, namely, the issue of a light and convenient coin, and the withdrawal of a cumbersome one; and, to accomplish both objects, a considerable apparent profit will be necessary. In the matter of making the exchange, the mint should have a sort of ubiquity, by paying the expenses of transportation both ways; so that our fellow-citizens at Milwaukie or Tal-lahassee would be placed on the same footing as those in Philadelphia.

I may say, in regard to the danger of counterfeiting, that it would seem impossible to push into circulation, to any profitable extent, a coinage of so low a denomination. The numerous copper tokens of 1837 were openly issued in the exigency of the times; but the issue of a public notice that the law would be enforced against them, immediately put a stop to their circulation.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the coin provided for in this act shall be a legal tender in payment of debts to the extent of ten cents in any one payment.

*Remark.*—The object of this section is to give a legal importance and value to the new cent, in addition to the authoritative stamp of the mint. The present cent is not a legal tender.

In conclusion, I may remark that whilst I at present prefer the proportions of 95 per cent. copper and 5 per cent. of zinc and tin, as composed in the specimens presented, yet I have purposely avoided naming these metals in the 2d section, in order that we may, if we think proper, use nickel in the composition. As to which point, I will cause some experiments to be made for the purpose of ascertaining whether a further improvement is not attainable; but these inquiries need not prevent immediate action upon the proposition herein presented.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your faithful servant,  
JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN, *Director*.

HON. JAMES GUTHRIE,  
*Secretary of the Treasury, Washington City.*

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Philadelphia, June 24, 1854.*

The Director of the mint gives notice that from and after the 1st of July, 1854, the price to be paid for silver purchased at the mint will be one dollar twenty-two and a half cents ( $\$1\ 22\frac{1}{2}$ ) per ounce of standard fineness (nine-tenths,) as determined by assay at the mint.

The silver tendered for sale will be received and weighed and a receipt given therefor. On the report of the assayer the standard weight will be determined, and the net value, calculated at the above rate, will thereupon be paid to the owner or his order in gold or silver coins at his option.

For the information of bullion dealers, it may be stated that, ac-



According to the above rate of purchase, the yield per ounce gross, of the various classes of silver coin usually in the market, will be about as follows:

Five francs, whole dollars (except "hammered," and United States coins issued since 1837, and prior to April, 1853, except three-cent pieces.....	\$1 22½
United States coins of mixed dates, and the Spanish and Mexican parts of a dollar, excluding p-starcens.....	1 22
German crowns.....	1 19
German thalers.....	1 02

The prices fixed by a former circular of December 21, 1853, will be continued as to the branch mints until further notice.

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN, *Director*.

NOTE.—By instructions to the branch mint at New Orleans, dated December 23, 1854, and to the branch mint at San Francisco, dated January 4, 1855, the prices fixed by the above circular were authorized to be paid for silver bullion purchased at these institutions.

## A.

Statement of deposits and coinage at the mint of the United States, its branches, and the assay office, during the year 1854.

## DEPOSITES.

Description.	Mint of United States, Philadelphia.	Branch Mint, New Orleans.	Branch Mint, San Francisco.	Branch Mint, Dahlonega.	Branch Mint, Charlotte.	Assay office, New York.	Total.
<b>GOLD.</b>							
Foreign coin.....	\$128,825 00	\$114,137 21				\$7,695 64	\$250,657 85
Foreign bullion.....	424,125 00	43,486 59	\$18,177 90			25,821 16	511,610 65
United States coin, (O. S.).....	3,080 00		4,656 67			200 00	7,936 67
United States bullion.....	35,713,358 68	981,511 63	10,842,281 23	\$280,225 45	\$213,606 21	9,227,176 89	57,253,131 09
Total gold.....	36,269,388 68	1,139,135 43	10,865,115 80	281,225 45	213,606 21	9,260,893 69	58,028,365 26
<b>SILVER.</b>							
Deposited (including purchases).....	4,227,514 99	1,305,997 95	1,295 51			8,746 54	5,543,554 99
United States bullion (parted).....	253,226 15	5,705 61		1,706 61		67,560 46	324,198 83
Total silver.....	4,480,741 14	1,311,703 56	1,295 51	1,706 61		76,307 00	5,871,753 82
Total gold and silver deposits.....	40,750,129 82	2,450,838 99	10,866,411 31	281,932 06	213,606 21	9,337,200 69	63,900,119 08
Less unparted bullion redeposited at the mint from branch mint San Francisco, and assay office New York.....			1,255,000 00			6,786,137 03	8,041,137 03
Total.....	40,750,129 82	2,450,838 99	9,611,411 31	281,932 06	213,606 21	2,551,063 66	55,858,982 05



## COINAGE.

REPORT OF THE

Denomination.	Mint of United States, Philadelphia.		Branch mint, New Orleans.		Branch mint, San Francisco.		Branch mint, Dal- longa.		Branch mint, Char- lotte.		Assay office, New York.		Total.	
	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.
<b>GOLD.</b>														
double eagles.....	757,899	\$15,157,980 00	3,259	\$65,000	141,468	\$2,829,360 00							902,617	\$18,052,340 00
eagles.....	51,259	512,500 00	52,500	525,000	125,826	1,258,260 00							230,576	2,305,760 00
half eagles.....	160,675	803,375 00	45,000	225,000	298	1,340 00	56,414	\$181,065	39,284	\$196,415 00			302,639	1,513,195 00
three dollars.....	138,608	415,824 00	21,000	72,000				1,120	3,360				163,738	491,214 00
quarter eagles.....	586,258	1,465,645 00	153,000	382,500	246	615 00		1,760	4,400	7,297	18,237 50		758,559	1,896,397 50
cents.....	1,659,445	1,659,445 00			14,632	14,632 00	2,935	2,935					1,657,012	1,657,012 00
half cents.....	5,122	17,643,270 58			8	5,883 16					822	\$2,888,039 18	5,952	20,537,172 52
unparted bars.....					2,264	5,641,594 05							2,264	5,641,594 05
Total gold.....	3,352,267	37,693,069 58	278,750	1,274,500	282,712	9,731,574 21	62,228	292,760	46,578	214,652 50	822	2,888,039 18	4,023,357	52,094,595 47
<b>SILVER.</b>														
bars.....	33,140	33,140 00											33,140	33,140 00
half dollars.....	2,982,000	1,491,000 00	5,240,000	2,620,000									8,222,000	4,111,000 00
quarter dollars.....	12,380,000	3,095,000 00	1,481,000	371,000									13,861,000	3,466,000 00
cents.....	4,470,000	447,000 00	1,770,000	177,000									6,240,000	624,000 00
half cents.....	5,740,000	287,000 00	1,560,000	78,000									7,300,000	365,000 00
one-cent pieces.....	671,000	20,130 00											671,000	20,130 00
Total silver.....	26,276,140	5,373,270 00	10,054,000	3,246,000									36,330,140	8,619,270 00
<b>COPPER.</b>														
cents.....	4,236,156	42,361 56											4,236,156	42,361 56
half cents.....	55,358	276 79											55,358	276 79
Total copper.....	4,291,514	42,638 35											4,291,514	42,638 35

## A.—Statement of deposits and coinage—Continued.

## RECAPITULATION.

Denomination.	Mint of United States, Philadelphia.		Branch mint, New Orleans.		Branch mint, San Francisco.		Branch mint, Dal- longa.		Branch mint, Char- lotte.		Assay office, New York.		Total.	
	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.
Total gold.....	3,352,267	\$37,693,069 58	278,750	\$1,274,500	282,712	\$9,731,574 21	62,228	\$292,760	46,578	\$214,652 50	822	\$2,888,039 18	4,023,357	\$52,094,595 47
Total silver.....	26,276,140	5,373,270 00	10,054,000	3,246,000									36,330,140	8,619,270 00
Total copper.....	4,291,514	42,638 35											4,291,514	42,638 35
Total coinage.....	33,919,921	43,108,977 93	10,332,750	4,520,500	282,712	9,731,574 21	62,228	292,760	46,578	214,652 50	822	2,888,039 18	44,645,011	60,756,503 82

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, Philadelphia, January 30, 1855.

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN, Director.

DIRECTOR OF THE MINT.



## B.

*Coinage of the Mint and Branch Mints from their organization to the close of the year 1854.*

## MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA.

Periods.	TOTAL COINAGE.			
	Value of gold.	Value of silver.	Value of copper.	Total value coined.
1793 to 1817 .....	\$5,610,957 50	\$8,268,295 75	\$319,340 28	\$14,198,593 53
1818 to 1837 .....	17,639,382 50	40,566,897 15	476,574 30	58,682,853 95
1838 .....	1,622,515 00	2,293,000 00	63,702 00	3,979,217 00
1839 .....	1,040,747 50	1,949,136 00	31,286 61	3,021,170 11
1840 .....	1,207,437 50	1,028,603 00	24,627 00	2,260,667 50
1841 .....	710,475 00	577,750 00	15,973 67	1,304,193 67
1842 .....	960,017 50	1,442,500 00	23,833 90	2,426,351 40
1843 .....	4,062,010 00	2,443,750 00	24,283 20	6,530,043 20
1844 .....	1,782,420 00	1,037,050 00	23,977 52	2,843,447 52
1845 .....	2,574,652 50	803,200 00	38,948 04	3,416,800 54
1846 .....	2,234,655 00	1,347,580 00	41,208 00	3,623,443 00
1847 .....	13,296,080 00	990,450 00	61,836 69	14,348,366 69
1848 .....	2,780,930 00	420,050 00	64,157 99	3,265,137 99
1849 .....	7,948,332 00	922,950 00	41,984 32	8,913,266 32
1850 .....	27,756,445 50	409,600 00	44,467 50	28,210,513 00
1851 .....	52,143,446 00	446,787 00	99,635 43	52,689,868 43
1852 .....	51,505,638 50	847,410 00	50,630 94	52,403,679 44
1853 .....	52,191,618 94	7,852,571 00	67,059 78	60,111,249 72
1854 .....	37,693,069 58	5,373,270 00	42,638 35	43,108,977 93
Total.....	284,760,830 52	79,020,849 90	1,556,165 52	365,337,845 94

B—Continued.

*Coinage of the Mint and Branch Mints from their organization to the close of the year 1854.*

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA.

Periods.	GOLD COINAGE.							
	Double eagles.	Eagles.	Half eagles.	Three dollars.	Quarter eagles.	Dollars.	Fine bars.	
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Value.
793 to 1817.....		132,592	845,909		22,197			
318 to 1837.....			3,087,925		879,903			
338.....		7,200	286,586		47,030			
339.....		38,248	118,143		27,021			
340.....		47,338	137,382		18,859			
341.....		63,131	15,833					
342.....		81,507	27,578		2,823			
343.....		75,462	611,205		100,546			
344.....		6,361	340,370		6,784			
345.....		26,153	417,099		91,051			
346.....		20,095	395,942		21,598			
347.....		862,264	919,781		29,814			
348.....		145,484	260,775		8,886			
349.....		653,618	133,070		23,294	638,567		
350.....	1,170,261	291,451	64,491		252,923	481,953		
351.....	2,087,155	176,328	377,505		1,372,748	3,317,671		
352.....	2,053,026	263,106	573,901		1,159,681	2,045,351		
353.....	1,261,326	201,253	305,770		1,404,668	4,076,051	4,576	\$15,835,998 00
354.....	757,899	54,250	160,675	138,618	596,258	1,639,445	5,122	17,643,270 58
Total.....	7,329,667	3,145,841	9,079,942	138,618	6,066,084	12,249,038	9,698	33,479,268 58



## MINT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PHILADELPHIA—Continued.

REPORT OF THE

Periods.	SILVER COINAGE.						COPPER COINAGE.		TOTAL COINAGE.
	Dollars.	Half dollars.	Quarter dollars.	Dimes.	Half dimes.	Trimes.	Cents.	Half cents.	No. of pieces coined.
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	
3 to 1817.....	1,439,517	13,104,433	650,280	1,007,151	265,543	.....	29,316,272	5,235,513	52,019,407
3 to 1837.....	1,000	74,793,560	5,041,749	11,854,949	14,463,700	.....	46,554,830	2,205,200	158,882,816
8.....	.....	3,546,000	832,000	1,992,500	2,255,000	.....	6,370,200	.....	15,336,518
9.....	300	3,334,561	491,146	1,053,115	1,069,150	.....	3,128,661	.....	9,260,345
0.....	61,005	1,435,008	183,127	1,358,580	1,344,085	.....	2,462,700	.....	7,053,084
1.....	173,000	310,000	120,000	1,622,500	1,150,000	.....	1,597,367	.....	5,051,831
2.....	184,618	2,012,764	88,000	1,887,500	815,000	.....	2,383,390	.....	7,483,180
3.....	165,100	3,844,000	645,600	1,370,000	1,165,000	.....	2,428,320	.....	10,405,233
4.....	20,000	1,766,000	421,200	72,500	430,000	.....	2,397,752	.....	5,460,967
5.....	24,500	589,000	922,000	1,755,000	1,564,000	.....	3,894,804	.....	9,283,607
6.....	110,600	2,210,000	510,000	31,300	27,000	.....	4,120,800	.....	7,447,335
47.....	140,750	1,156,000	734,000	245,000	1,274,000	.....	6,183,669	.....	11,545,278
48.....	15,000	580,000	146,000	451,500	668,000	.....	6,415,799	.....	8,691,444
49.....	62,600	1,252,000	340,000	839,000	1,309,000	.....	4,178,500	39,864	9,519,513
50.....	7,500	227,000	190,800	1,931,500	955,000	.....	4,426,844	39,812	10,039,535
51.....	1,300	200,730	160,000	1,026,500	781,000	5,447,400	9,889,707	147,672	24,985,716
52.....	1,100	77,130	177,060	1,535,500	1,000,500	18,663,500	5,063,094	.....	32,612,949
53.....	46,110	3,532,708	15,254,220	12,173,010	13,345,020	11,400,000	6,641,131	129,694	69,775,537
54.....	33,140	2,982,000	12,380,000	4,470,000	5,740,000	671,000	4,236,156	55,358	33,919,921
Total.....	2,487,140	116,952,894	39,292,182	46,677,105	49,620,998	36,181,900	151,689,996	7,853,113	488,774,216

## BRANCH MINT AT NEW ORLEANS.

Periods.	GOLD COINAGE.						SILVER COINAGE.					
	Double eagles.	Eagles.	Half eagles.	Three dollars.	Quarter eagles.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Half dollars.	Quarter dollars.	Dimes.	Half dimes.	Trimes.
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.
38.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	205,000	35,000	.....
39.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17,346	.....	.....	115,000	.....	690,000	460,000	.....
40.....	.....	.....	32,500	.....	26,200	.....	.....	815,000	426,100	1,241,000	909,000	.....
41.....	.....	4,500	6,350	.....	7,180	.....	.....	367,000	452,500	2,007,500	815,000	.....
42.....	.....	27,300	16,400	.....	19,800	.....	.....	957,000	769,000	1,950,000	350,000	.....
43.....	.....	175,062	179,075	.....	290,002	.....	.....	2,268,000	518,000	150,000	.....	.....
44.....	.....	118,700	364,600	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,005,000	740,000	.....	220,000	.....
45.....	.....	47,500	41,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,094,000	.....	230,000	.....	.....
46.....	.....	81,780	58,000	.....	66,000	.....	59,000	2,304,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
47.....	.....	751,500	12,000	.....	124,000	.....	.....	2,584,000	368,000	.....	.....	.....
48.....	.....	35,850	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,180,000	.....	.....	600,000	.....
49.....	.....	23,900	.....	.....	.....	215,000	.....	2,310,000	.....	300,000	140,000	.....
50.....	141,000	57,500	.....	.....	84,000	14,000	40,000	2,456,000	412,000	510,000	690,000	.....
51.....	315,000	263,000	41,000	.....	148,000	290,000	.....	402,000	88,000	400,000	860,000	720,000
52.....	190,000	18,000	.....	.....	140,000	140,000	.....	144,000	96,000	430,000	260,000	.....
53.....	71,000	51,000	.....	.....	.....	290,000	.....	1,328,000	1,332,000	1,100,000	2,360,000	.....
54.....	3,250	52,500	46,000	24,000	153,000	.....	.....	5,240,000	1,484,000	1,770,000	1,560,000	.....
Total....	720,250	1,528,092	796,925	24,000	1,075,528	949,000	99,000	28,569,000	6,685,600	10,983,500	9,259,000	720,000

DIRECTOR OF THE MINT.



## B.—Coinage of the Mint and Branch Mints—Continued.

## BRANCH MINT AT NEW ORLEANS—Continued.

Periods.	TOTAL COINAGE.			
	Number of pieces coined.	Value of gold.	Value of silver.	Total value coined.
1838 .....	240,000	.....	\$22,250	\$22,250
1839 .....	1,282,346	\$43,365	149,500	192,865
1840 .....	3,449,800	228,000	683,575	911,575
1841 .....	3,660,030	94,700	538,125	632,825
1842 .....	4,089,500	404,500	883,250	1,287,750
1843 .....	3,580,139	3,371,000	1,278,500	4,649,500
1844 .....	3,448,300	3,010,000	1,198,500	4,208,500
1845 .....	2,412,500	680,000	1,070,000	1,750,000
1846 .....	2,568,780	1,272,800	1,211,000	2,483,800
1847 .....	3,659,500	6,085,000	1,384,000	7,469,000
1848 .....	3,815,850	358,500	1,620,000	1,978,500
1849 .....	2,988,900	454,000	1,192,000	1,646,000
1850 .....	4,404,500	3,619,000	1,456,500	5,075,500
1851 .....	3,527,000	9,795,000	327,600	10,122,600
1852 .....	1,418,000	4,470,000	152,000	4,622,000
1853 .....	6,532,000	2,220,000	1,225,000	3,445,000
1854 .....	10,332,750	1,274,500	3,246,000	4,520,500
Total .....	61,409,895	37,330,365	17,637,800	55,018,165

## BRANCH MINT AT CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Periods.	GOLD COINAGE.				
	Half eagles.	Quarter eagles.	Dollars.	Total.	Total.
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Value.
1838 to 1847 .....	269,424	123,576	.....	393,000	\$1,656,060 00
1848 .....	64,472	16,788	.....	81,260	364,330 00
1849 .....	64,823	10,220	11,634	86,677	361,229 00
1850 .....	63,591	9,148	6,966	79,705	347,791 00
1851 .....	49,176	14,923	41,267	105,366	324,454 50
1852 .....	72,574	9,772	9,434	91,780	396,734 00
1853 .....	65,571	.....	11,515	77,086	339,370 00
1854 .....	39,283	7,295	.....	46,578	214,652 50
Total .....	688,914	191,722	80,816	961,452	4,004,691 00

## B.—Coinage of the Mint and Branch Mints—Continued.

## BRANCH MINT AT DAHLONEGA, GA.

Periods.	GOLD COINAGE.					
	Half eagles.	Three dollars.	Quarter eagles.	Dollars.	Total.	Total.
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Value.
1838 to 1847 .....	576,553	.....	134,101	.....	710,654	\$3,218,017 50
1848 .....	47,465	.....	13,771	.....	61,236	271,752 50
1849 .....	39,036	.....	10,945	21,588	71,569	244,130 50
1850 .....	43,950	.....	12,148	8,382	64,480	258,502 00
1851 .....	62,710	.....	11,264	9,882	83,856	351,592 00
1852 .....	91,452	.....	4,078	6,360	101,890	473,815 00
1853 .....	89,678	.....	3,178	6,583	99,439	462,918 00
1854 .....	56,413	1,120	1,760	2,935	62,228	292,760 00
Total .....	1,007,257	1,120	191,245	55,730	1,255,352	5,573,487 50

## BRANCH MINT AT SAN FRANCISCO.

From April 3 to December 31, 1854.

Gold.	Pieces.	Value.
Double eagles .....	141,468	\$2,829,360 00
Eagles .....	123,826	1,238,260 00
Half eagles .....	268	1,340 00
Quarter eagles .....	246	615 00
Dollars .....	14,632	14,632 00
Unparted bars .....	2,264	5,641,504 05
Parted bars .....	8	5,863 16
Total .....	282,712	9,731,574 21

## ASSAY OFFICE, NEW YORK.

From October 10 to December 31, 1854.

Bars (fine) 822 pieces; value..... \$2,888,059 18



## Summary exhibit of the coinage of the Mints to the close of the year 1854.

Mints.	Commencement of coinage.	Gold coinage.	Silver coinage.	Copper coinage.	Entire coinage.	
		Value.	Value.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.
Philadelphia.....	1793.....	\$284,760,830 52	\$79,020,849 90	\$1,556,165 52	488,774,216	\$365,337,845 94
New Orleans.....	1838.....	37,380,365 00	17,637,800 00	.....	61,409,895	55,018,165 00
San Francisco.....	1838.....	4,004,691 00	.....	.....	961,452	4,004,691 00
San Diego.....	1838.....	5,573,487 50	.....	.....	1,255,352	5,573,487 50
San Francisco.....	1854.....	9,731,574 21	.....	.....	282,712	9,731,574 21
New York assay office.....	1854.....	2,888,039 18	.....	.....	822	2,888,039 18
Total.....	.....	344,338,987 41	96,658,649 90	1,556,165 52	552,684,449	442,553,802 83

## Statement of the amount of gold of domestic production deposited at the Mint of the United States and its branches to the close of 1854.

## MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, PHILADELPHIA.

Yrs.	Virginia.	N. Carolina.	S. Carolina.	Georgia.	Tennessee.	Alabama.	N. Mexico.	California.	Oregon.	Various sources.	Total.
1827.....	.....	\$110,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$110,000
1837.....	\$427,000	2,519,500	\$327,500	\$1,763,900	\$12,400	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$13,200	5,063,500
1847.....	518,294	1,303,636	152,366	566,316	16,499	\$45,493	.....	.....	.....	21,037	2,623,641
.....	57,886	109,034	19,228	3,370	3,497	3,670	\$682	\$44,177	.....	.....	241,544
.....	129,382	102,688	4,309	10,525	2,739	2,977	32,889	5,481,439	.....	144	5,767,092
.....	65,991	43,734	759	5,114	307	1,178	5,392	31,667,505	.....	326	31,790,306
.....	69,052	49,440	12,338	2,490	126	817	890	46,939,367	.....	.....	47,074,520
.....	83,626	65,248	4,505	3,420	.....	254	814	49,663,623	.....	.....	49,821,490
.....	52,200	45,690	3,522	1,912	.....	.....	3,632	52,732,227	\$13,535	5,213	52,857,931
.....	23,347	9,062	1,220	7,561	.....	245	738	35,671,185	.....	.....	35,713,358
Total.....	1,426,778	4,358,032	525,747	2,364,608	35,568	54,634	45,037	222,199,523	13,535	39,920	231,063,382

## BRANCH MINT AT NEW ORLEANS.

1847.....	\$741	\$14,306	\$37,364	\$1,772	\$61,903	.....	.....	.....	\$3,613	\$119,699
.....	.....	1,488	2,317	947	6,717	.....	.....	\$1,124	.....	12,593
.....	.....	423	.....	.....	4,062	.....	.....	669,921	2,783	677,189
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,560	.....	.....	4,575,567	894	4,580,021
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,040	.....	.....	8,769,682	.....	8,770,722
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,777,784	.....	3,777,784
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,006,673	.....	2,006,673
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	981,511	.....	981,511
Total.....	741	16,217	39,681	2,719	77,282	.....	.....	20,782,262	7,290	20,926,192



## BRANCH MINT AT CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Months.	Virginia.	N. Carolina.	S. Carolina.	Georgia.	Tennessee.	Alabama.	N. Mexico.	California.	Oregon.	Various sources.	Total.
to 1847.		\$1,529,777	\$143,941								\$1,673,718
		359,075	11,710								370,785
		378,223	12,509								390,732
		307,289	13,000								320,289
		275,472	25,478					\$15,111			316,061
		337,604	64,934					23,362			430,900
		227,847	61,845					15,465			305,157
		188,277	19,001					6,328			213,606
total.		3,603,564	352,418					65,266			4,021,248

## BRANCH MINT AT DAHLONEGA, GA.

to 1847.		\$64,351	\$95,427	\$2,978,353	\$32,175	\$47,711					\$3,218,017
		5,434	8,151	251,376	2,717	4,075					271,753
		4,882	7,323	225,824	2,441	3,661					244,131
		4,500	5,700	204,473	1,200	1,800		\$30,025			247,698
		1,971	3,236	154,723	2,251	2,105		214,072		\$951	379,309
		443	57,543	93,122	750			324,931			476,789
		2,085	33,950	56,984	149			359,122			452,290
		5,818	15,988	47,027	223			211,169			280,225
total.		89,484	227,318	4,011,882	41,906	59,352		1,139,319		951	5,570,212

## BRANCH MINT AT SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

1854, from April 3.								\$10,865,115			\$10,865,115
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## ASSAY OFFICE AT NEW YORK.

1854, from Oct. 10.	\$167	\$3,916	\$395	\$1,242				\$9,221,457			\$9,227,177
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Summary exhibit of the entire deposits of domestic gold at the Mint and its branches and the Assay Office to the close of 1854.

Mints and Assay Office.	Virginia.	North Carolina.	South Carolina.	Georgia.	Tennessee.	Alabama.	New Mexico.	California.	Oregon.	Various sources.	Total.
Philadelphia.	\$1,426,778	\$4,358,032	\$525,747	\$2,364,608	\$35,568	\$54,634	\$45,037	\$222,199,523	\$13,535	\$39,920	\$231,663,382
New Orleans.		741	16,217	39,681	2,719	77,282		20,782,262		7,290	20,926,192
Charlotte.		3,603,564	352,418					65,266			4,021,248
Dahlonega.		89,484	227,318	4,011,882	41,906	59,352		1,139,319		951	5,570,212
San Francisco.								10,842,281			10,842,281
Assay Office, N. Y.	167	3,916	395	1,242				9,221,457			9,227,177
Total.	1,426,925	8,055,737	1,122,095	6,417,413	80,193	191,268	45,037	264,250,108	13,535	48,161	*281,650,492

\* From the total deposits of gold of domestic production must be deducted the sum of..... 8,041,137

Being amount in unparted bullion redeposited at the mint during 1854 from the branch mint, San Francisco, and assay office, New York, reducing said deposits to..... 273,609,355



## D.

*Statement of the amount of silver coined at the Mint of the United States, and the Branch Mint, New Orleans, under the act of February 21, 1853.*

Year.	Mint United States, Philadelphia.	Branch mint, New Orleans.	Total.
1853 .....	\$7, 517, 161	\$1, 137, 000	\$8, 654, 161
1854 .....	5, 373, 270	3, 246, 000	8, 619, 270
Total .....	12, 890, 431	4, 383, 000	17, 273, 431

## E.

*Statement of the amount of silver of domestic production, including silver parted from California gold, deposited at the Mint of the United States and its branches, from January 1, 1841, to December 31, 1854.*

Year.	Value.
1841 .....	\$4, 300
1842 .....	6, 453
1843 .....	8, 640
1844 .....	30, 847
1845 .....	4, 769
1846 .....	3, 066
1847 .....	6, 407
1848 .....	6, 191
1849 .....	39, 112
1850 .....	269, 253
1851 .....	389, 471
1852 .....	404, 494
1853 .....	417, 279
1854 .....	328, 199
Total .....	1, 918, 483

## REPORT

OF THE

## SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

COMMUNICATING

*A report of the Director of the United States Mint on the fineness and value of certain foreign gold and silver coins.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
February 8, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, the report of the Director of the United States mint, "of the fineness and value of certain foreign gold and silver coins, as required by the acts of Congress of January 25, 1834, and March 3, 1843."

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
JAMES GUTHRIE,  
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. JESSE D. BRIGHT,  
President pro tem. United States Senate.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Philadelphia, January 29, 1855.

SIR: I present the following report on the fineness and value of certain foreign gold and silver coins, as required by the acts of Congress of January 25, 1834, and March 3, 1843; said coins being therein made a legal tender upon certain terms, to be ascertained by this report.

## GOLD COINS.

The gold coins of Great Britain, if not less than 915½ thousandths fine, are receivable at 94.6 cents per pennyweight; gold coins of France, not less than 899 thousandths, at 92.9 cents; gold coins of



Spain, Mexico, and Colombia, "of the fineness of 20 carats  $3\frac{1}{2}$  carat grains," which is equivalent to 869.14 thousandths, at 89.9 cents; and gold coins of Portugal and Brazil, not less than 22 carats, (916 $\frac{2}{3}$  thousandths,) at 94.8 cents. Of the above, only the coins of Great Britain and France fulfil the terms of the act, and there is an upward tendency in the fineness of British coins; but neither class has been received here for recoinage for more than two years past, except in trifling parcels, owing to the course of trade, which has cut off the importation of foreign gold coins. The standards of gold coinage in New Granada (formerly a State of Colombia) are so entirely altered as to render the act of Congress obsolete in respect to that item. The fineness of the doubloon has raised to about 894 thousandths, but by decrease of weight it has fallen in value from about \$15 60 to about \$15 30.

## SILVER COINS.

The dollars of Spanish-American coinage, and those re-stamped into *reis* of Brazil, as also the five-franc pieces of France, were also made receivable at certain rates, by the acts before mentioned; but as those coins are purchased at the mint for recoinage at a premium, the provision for making them current may be considered nugatory and obsolete. I subjoin, however, a tabular statement of their average weights and fineness, and their value per piece and per ounce, according to the rate at which our whole dollars are coined; and in the last column I have stated their value per ounce, as paid for by purchase at the mint. There is much uncertainty, however, about the dollar of Central America, whose coinage is quite irregular as to fineness.

In general the halves, quarters, &c., of these dollars, are very near in fineness to the whole piece; but the public should be aware that half and quarter dollars of Bolivia, commencing with the date 1830, and those of South Peru of 1835 to 1838, were greatly debased in quality, and are worth only about three-fourths of their nominal value. Such pieces are occasionally seen in our circulation. The fractions of a dollar coined within a few years in Central America, or rather in Costa Rica, are still more depreciated, and very irregular, but their mis-shapen appearance will be enough to exclude them from currency here.

Denomination.	Weight.	Fineness.	Value in cents, without premium.		Price at mint, in cents.
	Grains.	Thousandths.	Per piece.	Per ounce.	Per ounce.
Spanish pillar-dollars, and Brazilian restamped .....	412 $\frac{1}{2}$	900	100	116.36	122.50
Dollars of Mexico, mixed.....	416 $\frac{1}{2}$	901	101	116.50	122.64
Dollars of Peru, mixed.....	415	906	101.2	117.14	123.32
Dollars of Bolivia and Chili, mixed..	416 $\frac{1}{2}$	902	101.2	116.63	122.77
Dollars of Central America .....	416	870	97.5	112.48	118.42
Five-francs of France, mixed.....	384	901	93.1	116.50	122.64

I deem it proper to repeat the suggestion contained in my report of the 28th of January last, that the laws which legalize the circulation of coins of other countries are no longer necessary or expedient. In no other nation is this mixture of legal currencies admitted or allowed. Whatever necessity or expediency there was at the time they were passed, in view of the inconsiderable coinage then executed, has ceased to operate at this time, when our annual coinage is scarcely inferior to that of any other nation. If this suggestion is approved and the laws in question are repealed, it will be proper to provide that the Director's annual report on the coinage operations of the mint should embrace a statement of the weight, fineness, and value, or purchasing price at the mint, of such coins as are brought here in the course of trade or by immigration. This would include not only the coins mentioned in this report, but those also of Germany, Sweden, Norway, Sardinia, Switzerland, &c. I must beg to repeat that "such a report would be a judicious substitute for the one now presented."

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your faithful servant,  
JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,  
*Director Mint U. S.*

Hon. JAMES GUTHRIE,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*



# THE NUMISMATIST

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Founded 1888 by Dr. George F. Heath.

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FRANK G. DUFFIELD, Editor and Bus. Mgr., 4215 Fernhill Ave., Baltimore, Md.

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## Editorial Comment—Numismatic News

### SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY WILLIAM H. WOODIN.

The official announcement of the appointment of William H. Woodin as Secretary of the Treasury in President Roosevelt's Cabinet came at a time when the banking structure of the country seemed to crumble under the weight of the depression that has been trying men's souls for the last three years. His appointment to this important post seems to have met the hearty approval of the people of the country.

While Mr. Woodin is a new figure in public life, he has been known to collectors for years as a collector of coins and as the co-author, with Edgar H. Adams, of the standard work on pattern coins of the United States. For a number of years he has been a member of the American Numismatic Association, the American Numismatic Society, New York City, and the New York Numismatic Club.

Perhaps our readers will be interested in knowing something more about the gentleman who will be at the head of the Treasury Department for the next four years. The following facts have been gleaned from a press dispatch at the time his appointment was announced:

Mr. Woodin is moderate sized, white haired, pleasant of speech, quick of humor, a Presbyterian. Since 1916 he has been president of the American Car and Foundry Company. He rose to that position in sixteen years, starting as district manager of a plant at Berwick, Pa. He was born in Berwick, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clemuel Ricketts Woodin, May 27, 1868. He was

educated at Woodbridge School in New York, and graduated from Columbia University School of Mines in 1890.

Two years later he was general superintendent of the Jackson & Woodin Manufacturing Company at Berwick. He left that firm as president to go with the American Car and Foundry Company in 1899. In less than a year he was called to New York to be assistant to the first vice-president. In another year he was assistant to the president and in 1902, in little over two years after joining the company, he became director.

With his rise to the presidency he collected other important industrial posts. He is now chairman of the board and member of the executive committee of the American Locomotive Company; chairman of the board of the American Car and Foundry Company; chairman of the board of the Brill Corporation; chairman of the board of the Railway Steel Spring Company; president of the American Car and Foundry Export Company; president of the American Car and Foundry Securities Company and a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

He is a member of the board of directors of the Remington Arms Company, the Super Heated Company, the Montreal Locomotive Works, the Cuba Company, the Cuba Railroad Company, Compania Cubana Consolidated Railroads of Cuba and the American Ship and Commerce Company.

The new Treasury head has composed five symphonies, a children's book of songs and numerous popular pieces. The Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra recently played his "Oriental Suite." He does not orchestrate his own music, doesn't know enough about the technique of it. To get his melodies he props himself up in bed at night with a guitar. His musical instruction ceased when he was 7 years old.

One other thing that will take his mind momentarily from business is a tip that he can find a book with drawings by Cruikshank in it. He collects them. He also goes in for fine hand bindings. He also belongs to the Union League, Racquet and Tennis, Railroad, Metropolitan, Union, Lawyers', Lotos and India House clubs. He lives in East Sixty-seventh street, Manhattan. He was married in 1889, the year before he finished school, to Annie Jessup, of Montrose, Pa. They have four children, William H., Jr., Mary, Anne and Elizabeth.

### THE SWEDISH ART SOCIETY JUBILEE MEDAL.

In commemoration of the Swedish Art Society Jubilee, 1932, a medal in silver has been struck, designed by Otto Strandman, measuring 55 mm.



The obverse has the profiles to the right of the founder of the society, Count Axel Gabriel Bjelke, and its present chairman, Justice Chancellor Axel Edelstamp, with inscription AXEL GABRIEL BJELKE—AXEL EDELSTAMP.

The reverse side represents the Arts Genius, with the inscription SVERIGES ALLMANNA KONSTFORENING 1832-1932.

J. deL.



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## William H. Woodin's Collection

By EDGAR H. ADAMS.

(Paper read at the Annual Convention of the American Numismatic Association,  
Chicago, Ill., August 26 to 31, 1933.)

Secretary of the Treasury Woodin is a coin collector of the first rank and the possessor of the finest and most complete collection of pattern and trial coins ever brought together. His collection grew to such proportions that in 1913 he prepared and published a book on the subject entitled "United States Pattern, Trial and Experimental Pieces" which ever since has been regarded by the numismatic world as the final authority on the subject.

Pattern coins are those which have been issued at the mint as examples embracing the principal features of a proposed coinage, such as metal, size, weight, and design, while trial pieces are those which have been struck in various metals, as examples of the dies, usually in copper or other soft metal, showing the design of the coins.

His collection contains many unusual and seldom-seen pieces, commencing in 1792 with a sample half dime, or "disme," issued by authority of President Washington, with an obverse of what is said to be that of Martha Washington, and the silver metal having been melted from some of the Washington family plate.

Washington referred to this coin by saying: "There has been a small beginning in the coinage of half dimes, the want of small coins in circulation calling the first attention to them." The coinage presses from which this piece was struck arrived at the mint on Seventh Street, Philadelphia, September 21, 1792, and first began operation on October 9 of that year.

Then there is a sample dollar from the first dies made for a coin of this denomination, marking the beginning of the "Dollar of Our Daddies," bearing a head of Liberty with flowing hair.

In Mr. Woodin's collection was a specimen of the first example of large copper cent, but of special design, which was regularly issued at the mint from 1793 to 1857, when the design was discontinued. This cent was known to numismatists as the "Birch Cent," after the name of the engraver. It was of a design very different from the cent of regular issue, having a female head to the right, and around the border the inscription, "Liberty, Parent of Science and Industry." The date, "1792," was below the bust. The reverse design was very much like that borne by the large cent for so many years, having "ONE CENT" inclosed by a circular wreath, and around the border "United States of America," with "1-100" below the bowknot of the wreath. This coin is very much esteemed by collectors, who place a high value on it, as there are only a very few specimens known.

A very large and complete collection of the famous Gobrecht dollars is shown by the collection. These were made at the mint in response to a plan for a change in the design and weight of the silver dollar, which had been discontinued at the mint since 1804. The law was passed on January 18, 1837. Christian Gobrecht, the engraver, was originally from Lancaster, Pa., where he engraved the dies for banknotes and calico printing. He was reluctant to attempt the work of the new dies, but was finally prevailed



upon, and some of his coins show the name of "Gobrecht" in small letters on the base of the obverse design. This set is regarded as the finest set of designs for the dollar ever issued at the Mint, each bearing a large flying eagle reverse. This reverse is said to have been the design of Titian Peale, son of the famous Colonial portrait painter, Charles Willson Peale, the well-known museum proprietor. The obverse of the Gobrecht dollar with the familiar figure of Liberty seated, which was used continuously until the year 1891, is said to have been the design of Thomas Sully, another great painter. These pattern dollars are dated 1836, 1838, and 1839, and embrace at least eight varieties. They are also much sought by collectors, and all are held at a high premium. Mr. Gobrecht designed a number of half dollars as well.

Mr. Woodin's collection contains many examples of half dollars of the period, showing flying eagles in various styles, from one of which was taken the flying eagle that appeared on the little cents that made their appearance for general use in 1857, and which was largely used to redeem the large cents and the great quantity of Spanish silver coins in circulation at the time, which had been made legal tender by law.

A remarkable coin included in this collection was a gold quarter eagle of regular design, bearing the letters "CAL" stamped as with a punch which had been made from the first lot of gold to reach the mint from the newly discovered mines of California. At first there was some doubt as to whether this was really gold. The Governor of California, Robert Mason, in 1848 sent these gold specimens, which had been gathered from various placers, to Brigadier General Jones, who, in turn, forwarded them to the Secretary of War, who, in turn, sent them to the Director of the Mint, instructing him that if the metal was gold a certain quantity be used in the striking of a couple of medals, provision for which had been made by Congress, and the remainder be used in striking quarter eagles, bearing a distinguishing mark, these to be turned over to any applicant at face value. The coins are readily distinguished from the average United States gold coins, as they contained a large percentage of silver, which gave them a brassy color, in contrast to the regular mint gold pieces which are alloyed with copper, having a reddish color.

The collection also contains the only half dollar in gold ever issued at the mint by the United States. There are numerous pieces of this denomination issued in California by private persons, but they were never used as money, and issued without authority. But the United States half dollar is of unique design, and dated 1852. The center of the coin is perforated, and surrounding the perforation is inscribed "United States of America." It is known to numismatists as the "gold ring half dollar" and of excessive rarity.

In 1858 there were issued at the mint a large number of patterns for cents, many of them embracing the design of Engraver James B. Longacre and showing the Indian Princess head, which was used on coins of this denomination for many years, and familiar to everyone. The original patterns owned by Mr. Woodin of 1858 showed this Indian obverse coupled with reverses of different forms, with wreaths made up of cotton and tobacco leaves, laurel wreaths, and the well-known adopted reverse of oak leaves.

Mr. Woodin's coins bearing the first use of the motto "In God we Trust" embrace every denomination. The motto on United States coins was adopted as a result of a letter written November 13, 1861, by Rev. M. R. Watkinson, of Ridleyville, Pa., to Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, in which he recommended the recognition of the Almighty God in some form on our coins. Secretary Chase thought the suggestion a good one, and in a letter to James Pollock, then Director of the Mint, said "that the trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins," and recommended a device in the fewest and tersest words possible this national recognition. The first pieces to show an adaptation of it were a half eagle and half dollar of 1861, contained in the collection, with the motto reading "God Our Trust."

It was not until 1865 that Congress provided for the placing of the motto "In God We Trust" on the silver and gold coins by act of March 3 of that year, and Mr. Woodin's collection shows the whole set of gold denominations, from the double eagle downward, bearing this motto.

In 1866, were issued a large number of pattern five-cent nickel coins of



various designs, many of them bearing the head of Washington, and one with the head of Lincoln. These were all very interesting, but none was adopted.

Mr. Woodin shows the first aluminum coin to be issued by the mint. A specimen of this coin was forwarded to Prof. Charles E. Anthon, secretary of the American Numismatic Society, of New York, by H. R. Linderman, Director of the Mint, saying: "In accordance with the rules recently adopted I have the pleasure of inclosing for the Society which you represent the first pattern piece struck under the new system of distribution. It is a five-cent piece, struck in the new metal—aluminum—with entirely new devices and intended to weigh the same as the silver half dime (19.2 gr. or .04 ounce).

It is just the size of the half eagle . . . upon the theory of giving full intrinsic value, consequently it contains aluminum to the amount of full five cents in currency." The design of this aluminum piece, the work of James B. Longacre, showed on the obverse the bust to left of an Indian Princess, below "1868," and on the reverse a United States shield bearing a large "V." The year 1868 was especially noted for the striking of an international five-dollar piece of unusual design, the work of the well-known mint engraver, Anthony C. Paquet. This coin was suggested by Samuel B. Ruggles, the United States delegate to the French Commission of Coins and Medals. In July, 1867, representatives of the United States, France and Austria, provided for the issue of a gold coin of the weight and value of 25 francs for international use, by which plan the ten florins of Austria was to be made equal in weight to that of the 25-franc piece of France, the coin of each nation to be stamped with the bust of its emperor. The bust of Mr. Paquet's coin bears a female head, and the reverse a wreath inclosing "5 Dollars 25 Francs."

Mr. Woodin's collection contains many interesting designs for the Trade dollar, and shows the trade dollars of 1873 and 1884 and 1885, which are of excessive rarity.

In 1876 there were issued two full sets of patterns for the regular silver dollar, many of them quite beautiful. There were eight pieces in each set, which included the Trade and commercial dollars of the year. Mr. Woodin shows a full set of these rare pieces.

Mr. Woodin's collection showed the celebrated fifty-dollar coins in gold at one time. They were dated 1877, and were the only pieces of the denomination ever issued in the metal, and are now in the Government collection at Washington. These coins had been issued in response to a bill introduced in Congress by Senator William M. Gwin, of California, for the striking of large denominations to be called "Union," "Half Union," and "Quarter Union," of \$100, \$50, and \$25. Senator Gwin had brought the matter of striking five and ten eagle pieces before the Senate, which had passed that body, but failed to meet the approval of the House.

The collection shows many attractive patterns of 1879, of various denominations, the most important being the "stella," or four-dollar gold piece, four pieces in all, dated 1879 and 1880. The design of all the stellas had the same reverse, a large star, bearing the inscription "One Stella, 400 Cents." The obverses were of two designs, one with Liberty wearing flowing hair, and the other showing her with tightly plaited hair, illustrating the style worn by the ladies in the early eighties. Both designs were the work of the Chief Engraver of the mint, the late Charles E. Barber, who was responsible for so many handsome designs.

There are two varieties of the five-cent nickel piece with perforated center. These are dated 1884 and 1885 and are very rare. In this set are two one-cent pieces of the same design and of equal rarity.

For quite a while Mr. Woodin devoted himself to the collection of the early gold denominations of \$10, \$5, \$3, \$2.50 and \$1, and devoted himself chiefly to the collection of the varieties of the five-dollar piece, of which there are fourteen varieties of the year 1795 alone, some of them of excessive rarity and exceedingly high priced. His gold coin collecting extended to mint-mark collecting, which embraced all the foregoing denominations and including the twenty-dollar piece. This series is the most interesting of the lot, but one of the dates, 1849, is missing, for the reason that there is only one known specimen, which is in the Government collection. The Mint authorities had just time to have the dies made and one piece struck in the latter part of 1849, after the bill was passed.



### WILLIAM HARTMAN WOODIN.

After an illness of several months, William H. Woodin, former Secretary of the Treasury, industrialist, banker, composer and numismatist, died in New York City on May 3 of an infection of the throat. He was in his 66th year. He had been a member of the A. N. A. for several years. He served as Secretary of the Treasury in the Roosevelt administration from March 4, 1933, to November 16, when, upon his request, he was granted a leave of absence on account of illness. He went to Tucson, Arizona, to recuperate, and on January 1, 1934, resigned his Cabinet position. Later he returned to his home in New York, and on April 2 was taken to the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital, where he died a month later. (A sketch of Mr. Woodin's career was published in the April, 1933, issue of The Numismatist.)

#### Letter From President Thorson to Mrs. Woodin.

Mrs. William H. Woodin,  
2 East 67th St., New York City.

Dear Madame—The American Numismatic Association wishes to convey to you and your family its deep sympathy and to offer its condolence in your great loss. Mr. Woodin was one of our distinguished and active members for many years. His sympathetic interest for our Association's welfare and the late official guidance given our fraternity will always be a fond memory. Respectfully,

NELSON T. THORSON,  
President of the A. N. A.

Omaha, Neb., May 4, 1934.

### CALL FOR A. N. A. NOMINATIONS.

Members of the American Numismatic Association are hereby requested to exercise their privilege, granted in Article 4 of our by-laws, by nominating candidates for the elective offices of the association.

The officers to be elected at the next convention, which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, August 18 to 23, inclusive, at the Carter Hotel, are the following: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian-Curator, Chairman of the Board of Governors and four members of the Board of Governors.

General Secretary, Harry T. Wilson, 535 N. Sawyer Ave., Garfield Park Station, Chicago, Ill., will receive nominations up to July 18, 1934, for listing on the official ballots. Nominations made after that will be received until noon of the second day of the convention.

Inasmuch as the activities of the association are continually increasing, the Board of Governors urge the members to give serious thought to the selection of their candidates and nominate men well qualified to serve if they should be elected.

HARLEY L. FREEMAN,  
Chairman Board of Governors.

Cleveland, Ohio, May 10, 1934.

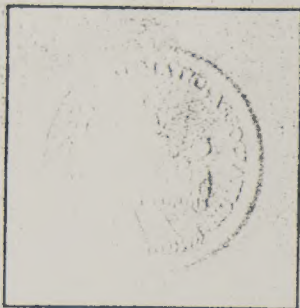
(Editor's Note—In connection with the above call for nominations for A. N. A. officers, members are advised that nominations sent direct to The Numismatist cannot be published. They should be sent to the General Secretary, who will cause them to be published. By following the letter and the spirit of the by-laws, disappointment and misunderstanding may be avoided.)

### LETTER FROM PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

President Thorson, of the A. N. A., has received the following letter from Gilbert S. Perez, District Secretary for the Philippine Islands, and a prominent member of the Philippine Numismatic Society:

"The present depression and the gold embargo have both hit local collectors rather hard. We have been able to hold our own; that is, what be-





# American Numismatic Association

WORLD'S LARGEST ORGANIZATION FOR COLLECTORS OF COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS & PAPER MONEY

## CERTIFICATION SERVICE

Written in our 97th Year

December 21, 1987

Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO. 63105

Dear Eric:

The X-Ray spectroscopy was performed on your coins yesterday, the results are as follows:

1854 1/2 Cent (suspected copper-nickel composition).

1. Area tested-Obverse above and to the right of the date:

A. Elements tested	Percentage of Element in Sample
1. Copper	79.96%
2. Tin	16.11%
3. Silver	3.88%
4. Nickel	.04% Probably a trace element

2. Area tested-Miss Liberty's Profile:

A. Results nearly the same as above (under 1% deviation).

1854 1/2 Cent (Regular Issue, Copper)

1. Area tested-Obverse above and to the right of the date:

A. Elements tested	Percentage of Element in Sample
1. Copper	98.79%
2. Tin	.37%
3. Silver	.84%
4. Nickel	0%

2. Area tested-Miss Liberty's Profile:

A. Results nearly the same as above (under 1% deviation).

1856 1/2 Cent-Copper Nickel

1. Area tested-Obverse above and to the right of the date:

A. Elements tested	Percentage of Element in Sample
1. Copper	91.10%
2. Tin	0%
3. Silver	0%
4. Nickel	8.90%

Eric P. Newman  
December 22, 1987  
Page-2-Continued

2. Area tested-Miss Liberty's Profile:

A. Results nearly the same as above (under 1% deviation).

1856 1/2 Cent-Copper

1. Area tested-Obverse above and to the right of the date:

A. Elements tested	Percentage of Element in Sample
1. Copper	99%
2. Tin	Trace
3. Silver	Trace
4. Nickel	Trace

2. Area tested-Obverse-Miss Liberty's Profile:

B. Results nearly the same as above (under 1% deviation).

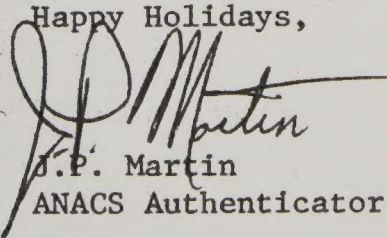
I am at a loss to explain the composition of the alloyed 1854 Half Cent, as I have seen no previous text mentioning this particular alloy. A suggestion that more tin was added "in an attempt to prevent the bronze pieces from tarnishing" can be found in a letter of James C. Booth, the melter and assayer of the mint.

This portion of the letter is paraphrased in Judd's Pattern Book under the year 1854.

The accounting Department will bill you for the surface analysis.

I hope that I have been of useful service to you.

Happy Holidays,



J.P. Martin

ANACS Authenticator/Grader

JPM:lm



Do you think we need these? They might have something on the experiments in metal in areas of what I am aware of

625 SECRETARIA de Hacienda y Credito Publico. Memoria de la Direccion de la Casa de Moneda de México Correspondiente al Año Fiscal de 1948, 1949, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1970 & 1972. 9 card-covered volumes. (100.00)

626 SIRCAR, D. C. Studies in Indian Coins. Delhi, 1968. 405 pages, 26 plates. Cloth, d. j. (also) GUPTA, P. Lal. India-The Land and the People. Coins. New Delhi, 1969. 241 pages, 34 plates. Cloth, d. j. (35.00)

627 SOBIN, G., Jr. The Silver Crowns of France. 1974. viii, 259 pages, ill. Blue cloth, d. j. (20.00)

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629 SPRING, A. W. The First National Bank of Denver (Clark, Gruber & Co.). The Formative Years 1860-1965. Denver, n. d. 46 pages, ill., including gold coins printed in gilt. 4to. Printed card covers. (20.00)

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638 THIAN, R. P. Register of the Confederate Debt. 1972 Quarterman reprint. 190 pages, frontis. Gray boards. (30.00)

639 TINGSTRÖM, B. Swedish Coins 1521-1968. Stockholm, 1969. 271 pages, ill. Bound, d. j. Also included is Hobson's Catalogue of Scandinavian Coins, 1972, bound. (25.00)

640 TROXELL, H. A. The Coinage of the Lycian League. N. Y., ANS NNM No. 162, 1982. 2655 pages, 44 fine plates. Light yellow cloth, gilt. (30.00)

641 UNITED States Congress. American State Papers. Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States. Finance. Vol. II: 1803-1815. Washington, 1832. viii, (5)-921, xiv pages. Folio. Original diced calf and marbled boards, gilt, joints broken, internally fine. (100.00)  
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657 WEST, L. C. Gold and Silver Coin Standards in the Roman Empire. N. Y., ANS NNM No. 94, 1941. 199 pages. 16mo. Tan card covers. Fine. (30.00)

658 WEYL, A. Die Jules Fonrobert'sche Sammlung überseeischer Münzen und Medaillen. Amerika. II. Abtheilung: Central-Amerika. a) Mexiko. 1970 OIN reprint. (4), (561)-1164 pages, ill. Brown cloth, gilt. (35.00)

659 WHITEHEAD, R. B. Catalogue of Coins in the Lahore Museum. Vol. II: Coins of the Mughal Emperors. 1977 reprint. cxv, 440 pages, 21 plates. Cloth, dust jacket. (30.00)



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REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*The report of the Director of the Mint.*

FEBRUARY 9, 1855.—Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

*To the House of Representatives:*

I transmit herewith the report of the Director of the mint, showing the operations of the mint and its branches for the past year.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, February 8, 1855.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Philadelphia, January 30, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report, in compliance with the first section of the mint law, which requires that, "in the month of January of every year the Director shall make report to the President of the United States of the operations of the mint, and its branches, for the year preceding."

There are obvious reasons in favor of a change in the law above referred to, so as to require the report of the Director to be made as soon as convenient after the close of the fiscal year, and that it should exhibit the operations of the mint, its branches, and the assay office, during the fiscal instead of the common year. I beg to recommend this modification of the law to your favorable notice.

The deposits received and coinage executed at the principal mint, (Philadelphia,) during the year 1854, were as follows: Gold deposits received, \$36,269,388 68; gold coins struck, \$20,049,799; fine gold bars, \$17,643,270 58. Silver deposits, including the silver parted from California gold, and the silver purchased pursuant to the act of 3d March, 1853, \$4,480,741 14; silver coinage executed was, \$5,373,270; the copper coinage, \$12,638 35. Total deposits of gold and silver during the year, \$40,750,129 82; and the total coin-



is your desire to refer this subject. A decided preference for the copper coin, if its weight can be reduced to 96 grains, is the conclusion to which my mind is brought, after a careful consideration of the advantages and objections on both sides. The allowance of five per cent. for the admixture of other metals—tin and zinc being intended—is to make an alloy which will improve the color and reduce the liability to corrosion and foulness. It is the same mixture which the French are using for coinage, under the name of bronze, but I have avoided that term as being vaguely applied among us to very different metallic mixtures and colorings.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall be at the discretion of the Director of the mint, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, to cause the planchets for the cent coinage to be prepared at a private manufactory, as hitherto prescribed by law, or more directly under the supervision of the Director, or such officer of the mint as he may designate. And the profits arising from the sale and distribution of said coinage, after deducting expenses of transportation as provided for in the 36th section of the act of Jan. 18, 1837, relative to the mint, shall be paid, from time to time, into the treasury of the United States.

*Remarks.*—It seems quite obvious that the mint ought not to be compelled, as it now is by law, to procure its copper planchets for coinage from a private or remote manufactory, and especially if the planchets are to be alloyed to a definite per-centage. This section will only confer the *choice* upon the Director, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, of having this business done under his own direction. It is not intended to find any fault with the present manufacture of planchets, which, in fact, is quite satisfactory.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall be at the discretion of the Director of the mint, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, at any period not earlier than one year after the passage of this act, and upon due public notice, to exchange the cents provided for by this act for those now current, upon such terms as may insure a sufficient supply of copper from that source, and with a view to the gradual withdrawal of the old coins from circulation. But no other copper coins or tokens shall be so received.

*Remarks.*—The impolicy and incongruity of having two cents, of quite different weights, current at the same time, suggests the propriety of conferring this discretionary power. The coinage of cents and half-cents, up to May last, amounted, in round numbers, to \$1,520,000—equal to, say 1,620 tons—the larger part of which are probably now in circulation; and it is well known that some parts of the country are crowded with them. On this subject we have frequent complaints, without the power of providing a remedy. The proposed cent of 96 grains, assuming the planchets to cost  $41\frac{2}{3}$  cents a pound, avoirdupois, would afford a profit of 43 per cent. The new bronze coinage of France, assuming the same cost of planchets, yields a profit of 54 per cent. We are, therefore, within the line of safe precedent, considering that the French coin passes freely. But in addition to this, it should be noted, that much of the importance of the new cent project consists in relieving the country from the present ponderous

cent; and if it will replace the old cents, and be put into new planchets, the weight diminished; so much the more important to the issue of a light and durable one; and, to the profit will be necessary. The mint should have a separate transportation both ways; the law would be plain.

I may say, in regard to the coinage of so low a value, the 1837 were openly issued, of a public notice to immediately put a stop to it.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall be a legal tender for ten cents in any one transaction.

*Remark.*—The objection is to the value and the new coinage. The present coinage is the mint.

In conclusion, I may say that the proportions of 95 per cent. of copper and 5 per cent. of nickel proposed in the specimen of these metals in the act, is proper, use nickel in some experiments to prevent immediate depreciation.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

Hon. JAMES GUTHRIE  
Secretary

The Director of the mint, July, 1854, the price of the new coin will be one dollar twenty cents and fineness (nine-tenths).

The silver tender coinage given therefor, the weight will be determined, will thereupon be coins at his option.

For the information of the

*I will be to get the price*





cent; and if it will require, as is probable, 50 cents a pound to get in the old cents, and a considerable per-centage for working them up into new planchets, the profit, as above stated, will be considerably diminished; so much so as to obviate objection on that score. It is quite important to keep in view the *two* objects of the law, namely, the issue of a light and convenient coin, and the withdrawal of a cumbersome one; and, to accomplish both objects, a considerable apparent profit will be necessary. In the matter of making the exchange, the mint should have a sort of ubiquity, by paying the expenses of transportation both ways; so that our fellow-citizens at Milwaukie or Tal-lahassee would be placed on the same footing as those in Philadelphia.

I may say, in regard to the danger of counterfeiting, that it would seem impossible to push into circulation, to any profitable extent, a coinage of so low a denomination. The numerous copper tokens of 1837 were openly issued in the exigency of the times; but the issue of a public notice that the law would be enforced against them, immediately put a stop to their circulation.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the coin provided for in this act shall be a legal tender in payment of debts to the extent of ten cents in any one payment.

*Remark.*—The object of this section is to give a legal importance and value to the new cent, in addition to the authoritative stamp of the mint. The present cent is not a legal tender.

In conclusion, I may remark that whilst I at present prefer the proportions of 95 per cent. copper and 5 per cent. of zinc and tin, as composed in the specimens presented, yet I have purposely avoided naming these metals in the 2d section, in order that we may, if we think proper, use nickel in the composition. As to which point, I will cause some experiments to be made for the purpose of ascertaining whether a further improvement is not attainable; but these inquiries need not prevent immediate action upon the proposition herein presented.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your faithful servant,  
JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN, *Director*.

Hon. JAMES GUTHRIE,  
*Secretary of the Treasury, Washington City.*

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MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Philadelphia, June 24, 1854.*

The Director of the mint gives notice that from and after the 1st of July, 1854, the price to be paid for silver purchased at the mint will be one dollar twenty-two and a half cents (\$1 22½) per ounce of standard fineness (nine-tenths,) as determined by assay at the mint.

The silver tendered for sale will be received and weighed and a receipt given therefor. On the report of the assayer the standard weight will be determined, and the net value, calculated at the above rate, will thereupon be paid to the owner or his order in gold or silver coins at his option.

For the information of bullion dealers, it may be stated that, ac-



Bob: I received my catalogue today, which is as usual a fine piece of work. However I must reluctantly point out what I believe is a complete misattribution. Lot 127 is a regular 1856 half cent, not a Judd 177 copper-nickel pattern, IMHO. For one thing, it is entirely too well struck up. I spent years looking for a fully struck up specimen without ever seeing one or hearing of one. (Thank you for the excellent photographs !)

Also the weight is wrong. If you will look at your notes on my four specimens you will see that they all weigh close to 70 grains, not the 84 grains of lot 174. (Thank you for giving the weight !)  
Both Breen and Cohen 2nd edition give the 70-72 grain weight as standard for the patterns.

Do you have access to a facility which could test the composition ? If I am wrong, which Marilyn will confirm happens with some regularity, I would be very interested in acquiring a copper-nickel pattern so well struck and of such anomalous weight.

I am willing to bring this to your attention because I felt confident you would want to know.  
Marilyn and I are looking forward to seeing you and Laurie at EAC.

Regards, Tett



Hi Tett,

I struggled with that coin, and I certainly value your comments. It has a distinctly different look from the normal copper ones or the copper-nickel patterns. I added the weight knowing it wasn't in the range listed by Breen. The problem for me was I had no way to get the composition checked. And the strike certainly is better than any I've seen struck in the copper-nickel alloy. The fields are every bit as prooflike as I see on the copper-nickel patterns, maybe even better. Honestly I was at a loss to explain what I was seeing without having a metal analysis to help me. I didn't want to reject the lot, but I couldn't describe it as a "normal" 1856 half cent, either. And as fate would have it, this lot came in late in the process so I didn't have the luxury of time to send it around for learned opinions. Perhaps the best approach now is to have the half cent community examine and discuss this thing at the convention followed by an announcement of the findings/opinions--all prior to selling the lot, of course. Chances are good that I will end up withdrawing the lot, but I'd like the half cent community to examine it first.

The only other cataloging options I considered while studying the coin were (1) that it was a first strike from new dies and had somehow toned differently from what we normally see for a copper half cent and (2) this was an undocumented experiment by the mint. I don't know how to resolve any of this without a scientific analysis of the metal composition or a test mark on the edge (which I certainly wouldn't recommend). And I am not aware of any testing facility available to the public around here.

Thanks again for your comments. Oh, and thanks also for the info copy of the Del Bland info re the 1811 half cent. Yes, Eric is an amazing man in so many ways. A treasure trove of historical info with a sharp, analytical mind to boot.

Bob



Bob: The color sounds very similar to the supposed second specimen of the 1854 copper-nickel which I bought years ago at a Stacks auction, and which I thought was too well struck. The color was a bit towards the brassy side, but when I had it tested it was pure copper. Stacks gave me a full refund without any hesitation. That coin also weighed 84 grains. but I do not remember it as being prooflike. That coin is discussed on page 451 of Breen.

You have seen the genuine and unique 1854 pattern in my collection. It has the full pedigree, but when I saw it was also too fully struck up to satisfy me, particularly after my experience with the previous specimen. I reasoned that if the press didn't have enough pressure to strike up an alloy containing the harder metal, nickel in 1856, how could it have had enough pressure two years earlier ? The answer was revealed when I had this one tested. It was a specimen or pattern, but without nickel, being 80% copper, 16% zinc, and 4% silver. I wrote all this up in two articles for Penny Wise a number of years ago.

I hope you resolve the questions regarding the present specimen to your total satisfaction. Incidentally, if it is a pure copper proof of 1856, it is much rarer than the copper-nickel pattern, and would probably bring a higher price. Regards, Tett



Sounds great. And getting it back at EAC is fine. See you there.

By the way, I spent a good deal of time working with Del Bland today trying to figure out the real provenances on the top 1811 half cents. Do you know the provenance for the Breen plate coin--the large black and white photo in the encyclopedia? I know the color plate is of your coin, but we can't figure out the other one.

Bob



**Sent:** Tuesday, April 06, 2010 5:54 PM

**Subject:** Re: EAC Auction

Bob: The metal testing equipment at Washington U. is usually tied up months in advance for the Physics Dept. and Engineering Dept. research projects. However, a friend of Eric's was able to slip lot 127 and one of my copper-nickel 1856 patterns into the schedule for late next week. Great ! However, this means I won't be able to return the coin to you guys until I see you at EAC on Wednesday. I assume that it is ok with you.

After looking at the coin, I can see why the color looked different to you. However, it isn't really the color of the other c-n's, either, and I am even more convinced that there is no nickel in it. We shall see.


Tett



Well, I'm not surprised--but it was worth a try. Such an odd look for a "normal" half cent.

Many thanks for the research work. See you in Annapolis.

Bob Grellman



Bob & Chris: I just received the results from the Washington U. Physics Dept. of the X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy performed on the 1856 half cent you sent me. As expected, it was virtually pure copper, with just a trace (0.05%) of nickel. I will bring the coin and the letter with me to EAC. Tett



Tett,

I reviewed what Breen [or Hanson] wrote in the big red book. I did not see any references that convince me that there were two different alloys used to make the 1856 Cu-Ni patterns.

There is a reference to a July 11, 1856 delivery of fifty specimens to the Secretary of the Treasury by Mint Director Snowden. This should be easy enough to verify, but I have not done it personally. I read it as a mintage of fifty pieces. There could have been more, but I do not know. If there are other deliveries, there should be other records. I do not have those records.

My study of the 1856 proofs is limited. I do not believe that any of them are common. The auction records support my opinion. Bill Weber told me that the 1856 Cu-Ni pattern was much more scarce than was commonly believed. My experience confirms that opinion. I currently own one, but it is in a slab. It is nice, but it looks like all the other ones that I have seen, except that it is nicer.

Color is no way to determine the alloy that was used to make a coin. There are many environmental effects that can cause a coin to turn different colors.

Alloys are likewise a fickle art. There are surface phenomena that can fool an X-ray fluorescence analysis. Cold rolling and improper annealing are two processes that are obvious candidates for such phenomena. Short of dissolving the piece in acid and running an inductively coupled plasma analysis on it, there is no way to definitively tell what is what. Certainly, an analytical result of 9.3% nickel is close to 10%. But where are the analyses of the rest? If we find one that is 12.1% nickel, I could be convinced that it came from a different planchet stock. I do not have such an analysis. I would want to see the results of analyzing 10 to 15 pieces before I reached any conclusion.

The weight listed in the EAC catalogue for the piece in question is 84.4 grains. That sounds standard, within the limits of weighing accuracy that we can expect. Have you ever seen one that is substantially lighter? Breen suggests that the 90:10 pieces are in the 70 grain range. Big difference.

My experience with Breen suggests that one must go back to the beginning and start over with all of his assumptions, data and references. The BS about Series VII Restrikes was exactly that; BS. The theory about two planchet stocks used to make a pattern that hardly anybody cared about sounds like a very similar story. I am thinking, Ockham's razor. Would you fabricate a different alloy, cast it into ingot form, roll it out, heat treat it, punch out planchets and strike it into a handful of coins in 1856 when you already did the same thing with an alloy that was only 2% different in nickel content? Nickel was not that easy to come by back then. Plus, Cu-Ni alloys are harder to melt than is copper. As they say down here in East Texas, "It jes don't make no sense to me".

I would just offer the advice of a very attractive female oriental carpet dealer who I asked about a particular rug that I was lusting after. She said, "Buy what you love".

Rick



Rick: I have owned several of the c-n pieces, and they were all in the 70 gr weight area. That difference and the fully struck up details were what prompted me to write Bob Grellman that the lot in the catalogue could not be c-n, but had to be a regular copper coin. Tett



Rick: I just had another 1856 c-n tested at the Washington U. Physics Dept., by X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy. A veteran metals expert like yourself probably knows what that means. The analysis was 9.3% nickel. So both specimens I have had tested were a shade under the 10% usually quoted.

Tett



Rare Judd-177 Breen 1-B



**127. 1856 Judd-177 Breen 1-B R4 (or R7) Proof-60.** Golden tan and steel brown. The fields are smooth and reflective on both sides. The only marks are a small spot of darker toning under the 5, a tiny planchet lamination on the rim at star 13, and a very small void on the rim at the C in AMERICA. The color of the planchet suggests this is one of the 90:10 planchets (90% copper, 10% nickel) described by Breen on page 456 in his half cent encyclopedia, which would make this piece extremely rare. It certainly has a different look and the color matches Breen's description. Weight 84.4 grains.



**128. 1857 C-1 R2 AU55.** Mint state but lightly cleaned and retoned chocolate and olive brown with faded red (that appears natural) in protected areas. No spots or stains, only a single tick on the jawline. MDS.



**129. 1857 C-1 R2 ICG graded MS61 Brown.** Frosty medium brown and light steel. No defects, but a bit dull from natural oxidation that could be brushed away quite easily (minus the plastic, of course). MDS. Our grade is AU55.



**130. 1857 C-1 R2 EF40.** Slightly sharper but there is a small swipe of very shallow verdigris in the field right of star 3. Frosty light chocolate and steel brown, possibly retuned but the color is attractive. MDS.



# THE 1856 COPPER-NICKEL HALF CENTS

Ron Manley

INTRODUCTION: The 1856 copper-nickel half cents were minted using the same dies as 1856 C-1, the copper business strikes. From reviewing the half cent literature, it can be seen that various authors classify the 1856 copper-nickel half cents in different ways. In his March 1998 P-W article, R. Tettenhorst referred to the "1856 copper-nickel pattern" in discussing the topic of half cent subvarieties. Bill Weber, in his May P-W article, concluded that "separate variety numbers should describe" 1856 B-2b and B-2c, the two copper-nickel alloys listed by Walter Breen. Ray Rouse followed in the same P-W issue with the observation that "We can fit items such as the 1856 copper nickel trial piece neatly into our collections as simple subvarieties based on planchet stock".

How should the 1856 copper-nickel half cents be properly classified? Should separate variety numbers be used to describe 1856 B-2b and B-2c? How many distinct copper-nickel alloys are there: one or two? In this article, I will explore and attempt to answer these questions.

BACKGROUND: In the second edition of "American Half Cents, the "Little Half Sisters" (1982), Roger S. Cohen, Jr. included the "1856 essay or, as it is usually termed, the trial piece" in his chapter "Other Half Cents". Cohen wrote that fifty specimens were struck with an alloy of 88% copper and 12% nickel. The weight of the planchets was given as "approximately 72 grains". He mentioned that another alloy of 90% copper and 10% nickel had also been reported "in striking these essays. The differences being that these specimens weigh 69 grains. This difference seems to be almost too picayune to be mentioned but for the sake of completeness I have done so" (emphasis mine).

Walter Breen apparently felt that the differences between these two reported alloys were not "picayune", but worthy of two subvarieties. In his Half Cent Encyclopedia, Breen listed the 88:12 copper-nickel alloy as 1856 B-2c. He believed that it was minted after the 90:10 alloy, which he listed as 1856 B-2b. Breen made the following observations for 1856 B-2c on page 176 of his "Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins" (1988): (1) The weight ranges from 70.98 to 73 grains; (2) The color is "Pale warm gray, often toned or faded"; (3) It is "weakly struck".

For 1856 B-2b, the alleged 90:10 copper-nickel alloy, Breen noted in his 1988 book that: (1) The weight ranges from 69.4 to 70.68 grains. (2) The color is "Pale lemon color, often toned or faded"; (3) "Weak strikings only". Comments: In his Half Cent Encyclopedia, Breen had written that the "Weight ranges from 69.4 to 70.3 grains". Breen added that "this variety is difficult to tell from the following variety". Breen misused the term "variety" here, based upon his earlier usage of the term. He should have used "subvariety" in both places (not necessarily because it's the correct term, but to be consistent).

DISCUSSION: Since these 1856 copper-nickel pieces were not struck for circulation, but to test the strike and appearance of the new Flying Eagle small cents, they do not belong in a



collection consisting only of business strike half cents. Instead, they should be considered strictly “trial pieces” or “patterns”, as Cohen has described them.

Breen estimated that only about ten specimens of 1856 B-2b were known. In his “Proof Census” he gave three examples. Lot 1157 from the 1954 sale of the “Anderson-Dupont” collection was the first example. It was catalogued as 90% copper and 10% nickel, but without supportive documentation. *From my background as a Ph.D. chemist, it is my belief that non-destructive elemental analysis was unavailable in 1954 that could have distinguished between 90:10 and 88:12 copper:nickel alloys.*

The second 1856 B-2b example listed by Breen was the Norweb coin. Lot 138 was catalogued as such when the Norweb collection was auctioned by Bowers and Merena in 1987. It was catalogued with the comments: “we are not aware that any specific metallic analysis has ever been made of this coin”. Its weight was given as 70.8 grains. Note that this weight lies between the high of 70.68 grains given by Breen for 1856 B-2b and the low of 70.98 grains given for 1856 B-2c!

Collectors should be able to tell if a 1856 “trial piece” is a 1856 B-2b or 1856 B-2c specimen by its weight. Yet, the difference given in Breen’s 1988 book between the upper and lower weight limits for the two copper-nickel compositions is a mere 0.3 grains! The original reference to the 1856 “trial piece” with a 90:10 copper-nickel alloy is an old one and may be unreliable (Breen gave Adams-Woodin 216, from a 1913 work, as an equivalent).

Breen listed Judd-177 as an equivalent to 1856 B-2c (the 88:12 copper-nickel alloy). Specimens previously catalogued as Judd-177 have been described with various colors. Weights have been reported in the range that Breen reserved for the alleged extremely rare “90:10” alloy. For example, Norweb I:139 (wt. = 69.8 grains), described with “bright yellow surfaces”; Cohen:379 (wt. = 69.9 grains), described as “flaming red orange”; and Eliasberg I:110 (wt. = 70.5 grains), described as “partially tan”.

CONCLUSIONS: The 1856 copper-nickel half cents may be properly described as “trial pieces” or “patterns”. As such, they form a special class of half cents—separate from the half cents minted for circulation. Specimens have been reported within a weight range that is *continuous* from approximately 69 to 73 grains. These are characterized by weak strikes and various distinctive colors. Such aspects permit copper-nickel “trial pieces” to be readily distinguished from the pure copper business strikes minted with the same dies. No reliable evidence exists for 1856 copper-nickel “trial pieces” in two different alloys. The Breen subvariety 1856 B-2b should be delisted.

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